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# CANADA:

## THE RESOURCES AND FUTURE GREATNESS

—OF HER—

# GREAT PRAIRIE NORTH-WEST LANDS.

## WITH INFORMATION FOR ALL.

OF INTEREST TO THE INTENDING SETTLER AND THE CAPITALIST SEEKING PROFITABLE AND SAFE INVESTMENTS.

BY THOMAS SPENCE,

*Dominion Commissioner, and late Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.*

OTTAWA:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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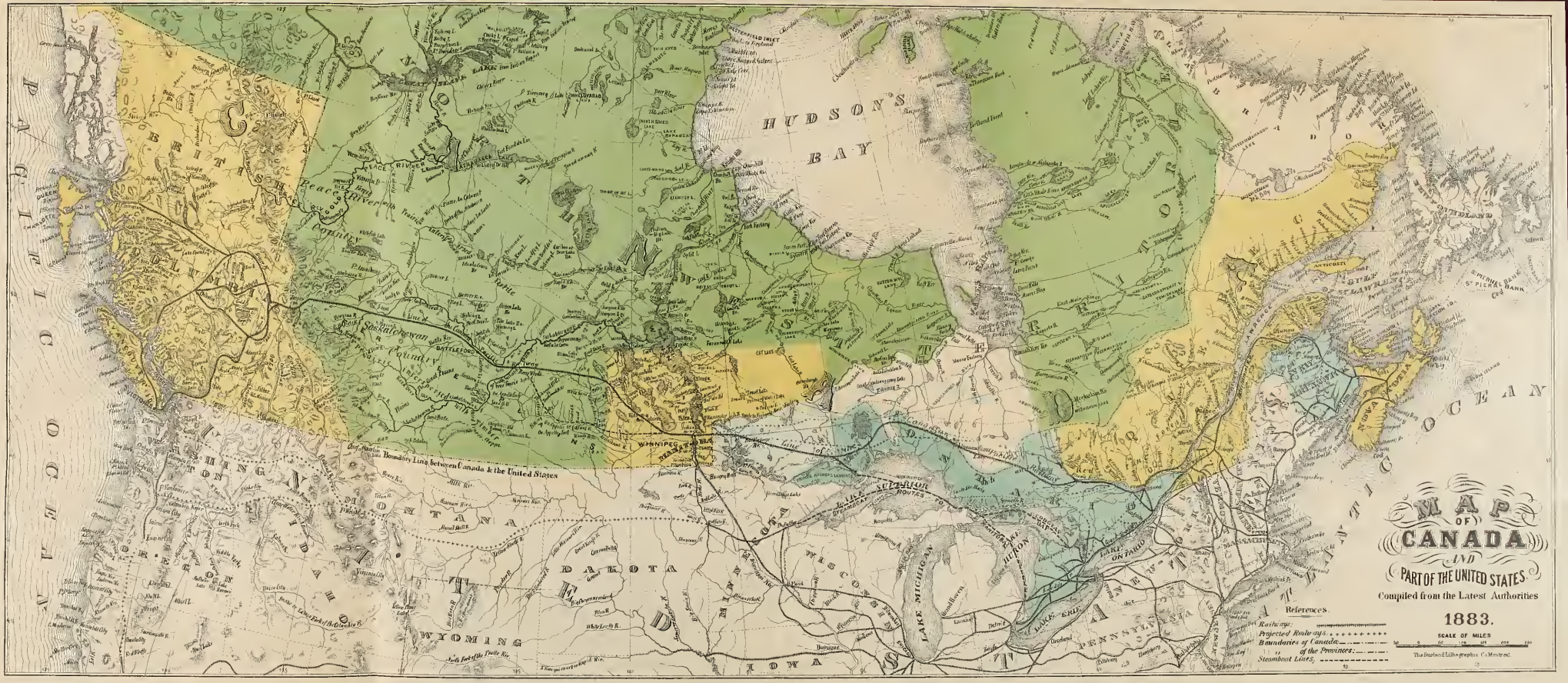
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# GREAT NORTH-WEST PRAIRIE LANDS.

## INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

CANADA, with its great expanse of territory, larger than the United States, is now knit together by the iron bands of her great national highway, from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the Pacific Ocean, so that the vast fertile Prairie lands of the Great North-West are now available to the world. England and France, with only one-fifth the fertile area of Canada, support eighty millions of people, while Canada has a population not exceeding five millions. The Canadian people felt with Emerson

> "And what if Trade sow Cities
> Like shells along the shore,
> And thatch with towns the prairie broad
> With Railways ironed o'er;
> They are but sailing foam-balls
> Along Thoughts' coursing stream
> And take their shape and sun color
> From Him that sends the dream."

So it was with a far reaching foresight that the Canadian Government undertook by its vigorous policy the successful prosecution of that great national highway the CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY, the wisdom of which policy is now acknowledged, not as an imaginary or anticipated contingency, but as an accomplished fact within the wonderfully short period of five years. The most sanguine did not dream of such a result being obtained. This magnificent line of Railway, the longest under one management in the world, and in its luxurious accommodation and comfort for the traveller, stands unrivalled in every respect. The sleeping and dining cars which are to comfort the traveller during the long journeys through varied regions of mountain and prairie, are wonders of luxury and adornment, and the equal in elegance of any first-class hotels in America or Europe. There is something almost marvellous in the idea of those cars fitted up like the abode of royalty, and each costing a small fortune, being built to traverse the Boundless Prairies of the far North-West of Canada into which the light of civilization has only just begun to gleam, and that the humblest passenger on the Canadian Pacific can have the luxury of eating and sleeping in a moving house of this description. But the railway is a great leveller, and the great distributor of the luxuries of life without distinction of person.

This great railway line is not only the shortest across the continent of America, but has the easiest gradients and the lowest pass through the Rocky Mountains. Fortunately for the commerce of Canada, "the Gate" of these mountains is found within its borders. The distance from San Francisco to New York by the Union

Pacific Railway is 3,363 miles, while that from Port Moody to Montreal is only 2,830, or a difference of 633 miles in favour of the Canadian route. The Canadian line will shorten the passage from Liverpool to China in direct distance more than 1,000 miles. The favourable position of this railway, and the very great advantages which will arise in working it, as well from its passing through the fertile belt of the continent and its easy grades and curves, as from its geographical relations to the ocean trade of the east and west will, it is believed, give it a commanding influence upon the commerce of the continent.

There are no data by which to compute the multitudes who will shortly be turning their steps to the great Canadian North-West, establishing Anglo-Saxon civilization and British institutions throughout a vast area unsurpassed by any other in the world, as the home of a free, contented and mighty people.

The Hon. Thomas White, Minister of the Interior in the Dominion Government, lately remarked in a speech: "That great North-West is, in fact, to-day the backbone of Canada's future welfare. We possess in it almost the only unoccupied wheat fields of this continent, and I believe we are destined before long to have a large influx of population from the United States into that territory, in obedience to that general impulse of immigration which has built up in such a marvellous degree the Western States and territories of the American Union." The statement of this honorable gentleman is amply verified by the following facts and figures from official sources, and clearly demonstrate what a brilliant future is in store for the Canadian North-West, and the fortunate descendants of those who may now obtain a foothold within its gigantic borders.

During the year 1884, *twenty-four millions* of acres of the lands, principally in the west, were disposed of by the Government of the United States, an increase of between *six and seven millions* over the sales of the previous year. During the last eleven years, *two hundred millions of acres* of public lands have passed out of the possession of that Government into that of private individuals or corporations. These are startling facts which contemplate the speedy termination of the homestead and pre-emption Acts by the exhaustion of the public lands in the United States and Territories.

Emigration may be compared to a stream of wealth-producing power flowing into a new country, and the subject has become a foremost social question amongst the farming classes of Great Britain A succession of bad harvests, combined with high rents and diminished prices for every kind of farm produce, including live stock, has at last rendered it impossible for the majority of farmers any longer to hope against hope. Under these circumstances but one course remains open for the occupiers of such lands—to emigrate whilst they yet retain a remnant of the means wherewith to do so. There are also those who are being trained in a knowledge of agricultural science, but who have not sufficient capital at command to enter upon the practice of farming in Great Britain and Ireland. The North-West is quite prepared to welcome them, and is ready to aid them to success. There are many instances to-day of persons who had lost income and property in the old country, and who have settled down in the North-West with the small capital which had been saved, and therewith have become within a short time, happy, prosperous and money-making farmers, with no care or anxiety about providing for their children, bright and cheerful as the day is long, and in the full enjoyment of health and domestic comfort. To capital, skill and industry many and great inducements are also offered and further referred to in succeeding chapters. The momentous question to the intending emigrant is naturally to where shall they emigrate for their own and family's future interest and happiness. Great caution and deliberation in this decision is necessary, as changing one's home is to all a serious event.

The contest for securing emigration by the zealous agents for various countries is daily becoming more sharp and active. In the early stages the work is fair and legitimate, for the agents simply seek to place before the intending emigrant the important advantages of the countries or states they severally represent. This is too commonly followed by a series of mis-statements as to the countries and districts which are represented by opposing agents. This class of misrepresentation is quite of the common rank, but the same object is carried on with greater delicacy and refinement, when those of a higher grade have to be decoyed by newspaper

correspondence upon Canadian North-West matters, much of which is manufactured within not many miles of the London Stock Exchange.

The great bug-bear—for it is nothing more—is the alleged great and trying cold of the North-West, spring floods, etc., but through the indefatigable exertions of the able Canadian High Commissioner in London, The Hon. Sir Charles Tupper, G.C.M.G., etc., the truth regarding our favoured climate and wonderful agricultural capabilities, which will be practically illustrated at the approaching great Colonial Exhibition in London, is gradually dawning upon those interested in emigration matters, further influenced by the statements from such eminent authorities as the Marquis of Lorne, the late Governor-General of Canada, Lord Dufferin, his predecessor, and many other eminently and equally well-known men, keenly alive to the interests of the North-West of Canada. The aim of the writer in succeeding chapters is, from eighteen years' experience in the country, to afford the emigrant or the capitalist the most general reliable and disinterested information in his power, shewing that the inducements offered by the North-West of Canada cannot be surpassed and are rarely equalled by any other country on the globe, at the same time entering fully upon any of the drawbacks, which may be considered such by some—the country perfect, and without such, has yet to be discovered—neither is it it an earthly paradise, from which loss and suffering are excluded. Failures have arisen and will arise, for men bring upon themselves here, as elsewhere, the results of their own imprudence and lack of perseverance, but these are rare and exceptional in their character. It must be remembered that it is not everyone who can make emigration a success. The industrious settler's farm is his private domain, and his house is really his castle—no landlord, no yearly rent to pay, he becomes his own master for life, and leaves this precious legacy to his children. Those who have capital at command can make rapid progress, and with prudent care they can accumulate wealth. Many of such are steadily flowing into the country, finding prosperity and contentment and spreading it along their course, and now that peace is restored, there is an entire absence of lawlessness which is far too common in the Western States. The rights of property are most clearly recognized and firmly maintained, and it may b confidently stated that there are no subjects of Her Majesty more thoroughly true and loyal to the Crown than the people of the Canadian North-West.

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## CHAPTER II.

### THE AGRICULTURAL CAPABILITIES OF THE SOIL—CLIMATE—HEALTHFULNESS, ETC., OF THE GREAT CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

In order that clear opinions may be formed upon this important subject, the reader must in the first place realize something of the magnitude of the country, and consequent variations of soil and climate.

The Canadian North-West has been described *in toto* by interested parties in Europe as "fitted only for the fur-bearing animals," and other misrepresentations freely circulated to influence and create confusion in the minds of the agricultural public and others who contemplated emigration to the country.

In dealing with that vast portion of the North-West of Canada known as the fertile belt, the reader must also understand that in the following pages no attempt is made to paint in glowing colours the wonderful fertility of its prairie lands, or in any way tend to exaggeration, but from FACTS alone and experience of the writer, from a residence in various parts of the country for over eighteen years, to submit to the world the truth, the utmost care being observed throughout in the preparation of these pages for the guidance of the intending immigrant of any class, and on which he may

confidently rely. If mutual advantages are to flow from immigration, new settlers must not be attracted by representations which their future experience will not verify. In the first place, then, it may be simply stated that it would be difficult to imagine the growth of luxuriant crops under more easy conditions of tillage than those which are here practised. Dealing, as the operations of the field do, with a rich and generally virgin soil of remarkable fertility, there is less necessity for that refinement of good husbandry, which is so important in exhausted or even partially exhausted soils. The rough culture which some of the lands here receive, especially from those who never held a plough before, seems to command the special sympathies of Nature, and luxuriant crops smile favourably upon the efforts of even inexperienced farmers. By this it is not meant to suggest that crops thus roughly sown equal those which follow good tillage, but that such crops are most encouraging to those who may have previously had little or no practical knowledge of farm work. Professor Tanner, after a visit to the North-West, remarks in his report to the Council of the Institute of Agriculture at South Kensington, London:—"The fact is, the land is so generally loaded with plant food, and to an extent absolutely unknown in Great Britain and Ireland, that this enables a strong seed to overcome minor difficulties arising from imperfect cultivation, and enables it to yield results which could not be hoped for when the soil contains only small supplies of plant food. Good cultivation is just as valuable there—the North-West—as elsewhere, but it is not equally necessary for securing a satisfactory crop, and hence the rough culture of those who have yet to learn how to work skilfully, is remunerative and very encouraging to them. Year by year they will improve in their modes of working the land, and with that improved management they will secure larger and better results." The Professor, who as an authority is undoubted in England, further remarks:—"In passing through the various settlements I was much surprised to notice the great variations which exist amongst those who cultivate the land. The farms range from those of the humblest type to a perfection of which we should be proud if they were in Great Britain. Some farms are held by labouring men, who have commenced business without any more capital than was enough to pay the office fees for securing the land, and who have their ploughing and sowing done for them by some neighbour to whom they have just given their own labour in exchange. I will mention just one typical case, out of hundreds which were met with.

"I came here," said my informant, "eighteen months ago with my brother. We had just two dollars (eight shillings) between us when we paid the office fees for the 160 acres of land. We worked for wages for many a day (five or six shillings a day we got), and we also put up our log hut, so that before winter I was able to get my wife and family up from Ontario. We have now eighty acres cropped with wheat and we owe no man anything. Next year we shall have 150 acres of wheat and all our own. We shall then take another lot of land, and make it right for my brother."

I met with other cases in which workmen employed upon farms bargained to be allowed to have four or five acres of land for themselves, and from these small holdings they were able after two or three years to secure and enter upon a farm of 160 acres for themselves. For a time they would, in such cases, continue to give up some portion of their time for wages. Providing that a labourer is steady and industrious, it is therefore possible for him thus to change his position into that of the owner of a small farm, but a small capital would have assisted him to an earlier success, and the same aid would have enabled many others to follow their example.

In the Elliott settlement, which is about thirty miles to the south of Brandon, in Manitoba, we have another typical group of highly successful farmers. These generally have 320 acres of land each; and although the settlement was only commenced three or four years since, yet, as they commenced with moderate capital, they have had nothing to impede their success. Substantial dwellings, school-houses, churches, well filled with merchandise, are to be found all over the settlement, and last winter over 100,000 bushels of wheat were sent from here to Brandon for sale. As we approach Brandon we enter upon a still larger class of farms about 640 acres in extent. Those belonging to the Honourable Mr. Sifton, Mr. Whitehead, Dr. Fleming, and Mr. Johnston may be taken as typical cases of farms which were speedily rendered complete by their owners, and forthwith brought under successful cultivation. In all these cases the profits on two years' cropping would repay the purchase of the

property, and also the outlay for improvements. Other lands in the same district were farmed under a different arrangement, as, for instance, Mr. McBurnie's farms. He purchased 4,000 acres of land, it was enclosed, ploughed and backset ready for sowing, convenient residences and small farm buildings were erected, and these farms were then let to tenants at a moderate rental, which thoroughly well remunerated both the owner and the occupiers.

Amongst all the settlements I visited none gave me so much complete satisfaction as that which has been established by Lady Gordon-Cathcart, about ten miles to the south of Wappella on the western side of Manitoba. It is particularly worthy of notice as being a well-conducted and successful colonization scheme. For various reasons Lady Gordon-Cathcart decided to render assistance to some of her tenantry who had become too crowded upon one portion of her property. A loan of £100 was kindly offered to each family desirous of emigrating to Manitoba, of which sum £25 might be expended in connection with their journey, and £75 was reserved for expenditure on the lands granted to them by the Canadian Government. The repayment of the loans was secured in regular course upon the land granted, and in accordance with the provisions of the Dominion Land Act. One of their body—John McDiarmid, an able and intelligent person for such a duty—was sent forward as a pioneer, and he, with the assistance of the Government Emigration officials, made a preliminary selection of lands. As soon as the party of emigrants arrived in Manitoba, ten or fifteen miles from the selected lands, the women and children were left in comfortable quarters near the railway, whilst the men marched off in a body to see what lands their comrade had selected for them. One after another the several homestead lots of 160 acres each were approved of by the different members of the group, and were duly scheduled in the names of the individual emigrants. They then returned to the nearest Government Land Office, and the registration of the land was completed, after which they secured tools for putting up some turf huts, which work being accomplished they had then to purchase their general farm supplies. Without delay working bullocks, waggons, ploughs, seeds and provisions, &c., &c., were purchased, and paid for out of the money remitted for this purpose. It was on a bright and happy day late in May last, that they formed in procession, and marched to their farms with all they required for their tillage and proper management. They soon commenced ploughing the turf of the prairie, simply covering in their potatoes with the fresh-turned turf. They also sowed their wheat and oats upon the newly-turned sod. Very rough style of farming many will be disposed to say, still it must be remembered that they had no choice, but the results caused them no regret. Within eight weeks from the time of planting the potatoes they were digging their new crop, and before two weeks had passed I had some of those potatoes for dinner, and I do not hesitate to say that for size, flavour and maturity, they were excellent. The roughly sown wheat and oats were then progressing rapidly, and a good harvest awaited their in-gathering. During the summer they had raised a better class of house, they had secured a supply of food and seed for another year, and their settlement was practically completed. A total area of about 3,200 acres had thus been secured, the quality of the land was good, the surface was gently undulating over the entire area, and it was as nicely wooded as many a park in the old country. The change in their position had been so quickly accomplished, that I can readily imagine that they must at times have wondered whether it was a dream or a reality. Was it really true that they were no longer small tenants and laborers struggling against pecuniary difficulties which well nigh tempted them to rebel, and that they had so suddenly become the owners of happy homes and nice farms, without the shadow of a care or a fear as to their future support? It was true, and the deep gratitude manifested by those settlers towards Lady Gordon-Cathcart, no words of mine can adequately describe. It was obviously unnecessary to enquire whether they were happy in their new homes; but I did ask one of the party whether he had sent home to his friends a full account of the place, "Why, sir," he replied, "if I only told them half they would never believe me again." These facts show very clearly that a loan of £100 prudently applied, is sufficient to enable a family to be brought from a condition of poverty to one of comfort and prosperity, and the money being secured upon the land, permits of a

reasonable time being given for the re-payment of the loan and interest, and with perfect safety so far as regards the capitalist."

The foregoing statements, made by such a reliable authority on agricultural matters in England, and whose mission, from the Council of the Institute of Agriculture, had for its especial object an enquiry into the advantages, or otherwise, which surround emigration to the Canadian North-West, cannot fail to prove conclusively to the mind of the most ordinarily intelligent person, that the reports which have been so industriously circulated in England, and which describe in such extravagant language the distinctive character of the climate of the North-West and its adaptability to agriculture, and the lack of prosperity among the settlers, are utterly false and malicious, circulated only with the object of diverting the flow of emigration.

The soil may be described as generally an alluvial black argillaceous mould, rich in organic deposit. Scientific analysis develops the presence in due proportion of elements of extraordinary fertility, comparing favorably with the most celebrated soils of the world. The very great wealth it contains is shown first, by the large yields of wheat which reward even poor culture, the average established by statistics so far, being about twenty-five bushels to the acre, while careful cultivation has been known to bring as high as forty bushels, occasionally even more without manure—and has special excellence, for the superior quality of flour made from it. With these uniform characteristics, the soils are of different grades of fertility, according to local situation: it would be absurd to expect any country of this vast extent to be all equally fit to receive the plough at once.

Barley gives also magnificent crops, and the quality of the yield is very superior, the amount being like that of wheat, to a large extent dependent on good methods of cultivation, and varying from twenty-five to forty bushels an acre.

Oats also thrive with wonderful luxuriance, and yield very large crops—from fifty to seventy bushels an acre. The soil is also extremely favourable for root crops of all kinds. Potatoes and turnips yield enormous; cabbage and cauliflowers grow to a size which astonishes people from abroad, and all ordinary garden vegetables thrive with luxuriance. Tomatoes ripen, but are not always a certain crop. The fact of their ripening at all in the open air is, however, a favourable climatic test of great importance. Their ripening cannot be counted on in the United Kingdom. The wild grasses extending to the foot of the Rocky Mountains are famous for the nourishment they contain. They not only afford rich and ample pasturage, upon which horses, cattle and sheep thrive well, but also make an excellent quality of hay.

As a practical illustration of the agricultural capabilities of even the territory along the line of the Canadian Pacific between Moose Jaw and Calgarry, nearly 500 miles, as yet very sparsely settled, and in consequence of American newspaper reports of a most injurious nature, going so far as to assert that this large tract was made up of desert and alkali lands entirely unfit for cultivation, the Railway Company to prove how utterly at variance with the facts such assertions as these were, conceived the idea of establishing farms at various points to test the agricultural capabilities of this district, not with the view of satisfying themselves as to the fertility of these lands, but by absolute proof to show to the many thousands of tourists, capitalists, and settlers who would travel over the section of the line between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains, that their assertions as to the value of the land were well founded. Accordingly a special train of a novel character, composed of fourteen cars and locomotive was dispatched from Winnipeg for the west on the 12th of October, 1883. It contained teams, men and outfit necessary for the establishing of the experimental farms on the virgin soil of the wild prairie, and at a most unfavorable time, the season being so far advanced for breaking the sod. The first ground was broken at a point 443 miles west of Winnipeg, at an elevation of 2,284 feet above the sea level; eleven and a half acres were broken at this point. Second, at *Rush Lake*, about 40 miles further west, 2,310 feet above the the sea level, 13 acres were broken. Third, at *Swift Current*, 2,430 above the sea level, 20 acres were broken. Fourth, at *Gull Lake*, 2,569 feet above the sea level, 30 acres were broken. Fifth, at *Maple Creek*, 2,500 feet above the sea level, 18 acres were broken. Sixth, at *Forres*, 2,437 feet above the sea level, 28 acres were broken. Seventh, at *Dunmore*, 2,406 feet above the sea level, 35 acres were broken. Eighth, at *Stair*, 2,439 feet above the sea level, 18 acres

were broken. Ninth, at *Tilley*, 2,470 feet above the sea level; and last, at *Gleichen*, 2,961 feet above the sea level, 42 acres were broken. It was not intended to attempt the raising of crops on the farms during the season of 1884. The idea was to cultivate and prepare the ground thoroughly in accordance with the best known practice of breaking and backsetting, so as to have a seed bed early for the spring of 1885. Those in charge of the work were, however, after seeing the land once turned up, so impressed with the belief that a fair yield would be obtained, *even off the sod*, that it was decided to make the attempt; considering it advisable, in view of the reiterated statement that this section of the country was unfit for settlement, to run the risk of imperfect cultivation rather than have the important question unsolved for another season. Therefore on the 27th March, 1885, a special train was sent out, taking boarding cars, men, teams, implements and seed grain to commence the spring operations. When Dunmore was reached on the 29th the snow was entirely gone, the ground dry and the frost out to a depth of several inches. The train arrived at Gleichen, 150 miles this side of the Rocky Mountains, on the 30th, and ploughing and seeding commenced on March 31st, with ground dry and weather mild. Having regard to the date at which the breaking was done, it need hardly be said to those at all conversant with prairie farming, that *the sod had no chance to rot, and the land, when spring seeding was commenced, was practically in the same condition as when left in the autumn*, so that a proper seed bed could not be prepared, and as a consequence much of the seed grain lay on the surface to be dried up by the sun or carried off by birds and gophers. The reader will bear in mind that the dates of breaking the land refer to the year 1883, and those of seeding and harvesting to 1884 The earliest harvesting being at *Dunmore* was barley on the 23rd July; oats on the 6th August, and wheat on the 7th August; the barley requiring three months and sixteen days to mature, oats four months and one day, and wheat four months and two days. At *Gleichen* wheat and oats were cut on the 25th August, and the balance of wheat on the 9th September. The highest yield of wheat was 30⅝ bushels per acre, weight 62½ lbs., and the average from all the farms as follows:—

Wheat, 21½ bushels; oats, 44½; barley, 23¼; peas, 12½. The above yields were ascertained by accurately chaining the ground and weighing the grain, this work being done by a qualified land surveyor The results obtained, considering the manner in which the land was treated, proved much more satisfactory than was anticipated, and proves most conclusively the great fertility of this region reported by detractors of the Canadian North-West to be entirely unfit for cultivation.

The next and perhaps most important consideration is the climate and healthfulness of the country to which a settler is about to go. The fear of the alleged trying cold of the North-West of Canada is not fortified by the character of the climate. Cold it certainly is during four or five months of the year, but the cold is dry, and not so chilling as the damp winter days in the old country and the further west you go the milder are the winters generally. But 25 or 30 degrees below zero is not a fact to be simply ignored, and requires proper protection in dress and in buildings, as undue exposure without such protection must lead to frost-bites of more or less serious consequences. With adequate protection, however, such as is the custom of the country, this degree or even a lower one, is by no means unpleasant, but on the contrary and bracing, proceeding from the dryness of the atmosphere. It is a significant fact that in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the work was not delayed a single day by reason of the weather being too severe for the men to continue their work. Possibly if the Canadian North-West had not been such a very attractive country, its climate would never have been so thoroughly misrepresented There are occasional storms in winter, which are called in the language of the country "blizzards," from the blinding effects of snow in violent winds, but people who are not obliged do not choose days when "blizzards" are blowing to go travelling, and they are decidedly exceptions to the generally uniformly bright weather of the winter. The average fall of snow is about six inches per month, lessening as you go westward. The snow falls in small quantities, at different times, and is rarely blown into drifts so as to impede travelling. Thus, while in lower latitudes they are drenched by the cold rain storms, or buried beneath huge drifts of wintry snow we enjoy a dry atmosphere, with bright, cloudless days and serene, starlight nights; and when the moon turns her full-orbed face towards the

earth, the night scene is one of peerless grandeur. The warm days in summer are generally followed by cool evenings, and such a thing as very sultry and oppressive heat is scarcely known. The warm days, followed by cool nights and copious dews, facilitate the growth of cereals in a wonderful degree. The dryness of the air, the character of the soil, which retains no stagnant pools to send forth poisonous exhalations, causing fever and ague, so prevalent in the Western States, but unknown here, and the almost total absence of fog or mist, the brilliancy of its sunlight, the pleasing succession of its seasons, all conspire to make this a climate of unrivalled salubrity, and the home of a joyous, healthy and prosperous people. Therefore the assertion that the climate is one of the healthiest in the world may be broadly and confidently made, sustained by the experience of its inhabitants.

Its distinguishing features in relation to agriculture, the melon growing in open air and arriving at perfect maturity in August and September, may be briefly explained by the amount of sunlight received during our growing seasons, viz: Whilst at New Orleans, in the Southern States, in July they have fourteen hours of sunlight, we have sixteen, with much longer twilight than they, consequently our vegetation grows more rapidly than theirs, and matures much sooner. It is a well-known fact that in Southern latitudes the warm spring develops the juices of the plant too rapidly. They run into the stalk and leaf to the neglect of the seed. Corn-maize, for example, rises thirty feet high in the West Indies; but it produces only a few grains at the bottom of a spongy cob, too coarse for human food. The cool, late springs of Northern climates restrain the undue luxuriance of the stem or leaf, and throw the chief development of the plant into the ripening period. This remark applies equally to all the cereals, esculent roots and vegetables. In regard to frosts, experience has shown that the liability to disastrous frosts in the season of growth, and which so intimately concerns the interests of husbandry, is not any worse in the Canadian North-West than elsewhere. A good deal has been made by grumblers, both native and foreign, of the injury done to crops in this country by early fall frosts. A frost which came in September last did great damage to a good deal of grain not quite ripe in Manitoba and some parts of the North-West. It did not destroy the grain so that it could not be manufactured into flour, but shrivelled the outer skin of the berry, and so lessened its value. This only happened to very late ripening wheat, as the harvest ought to be over generally before the beginning of September, when early sowing is attended to. It is to be remarked that this same frost extended over a great portion of the Continent, and did serious damage in the States of Wisconsin, Dakota and Minnesota, also in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Yet liability to a damage of this sort has not been a drawback which has stood in the way of the enormous development that has been witnessed over the portions of the Continent referred to. The Glasgow *Free Press* of September 10th last reports that serious injury had been done to the potato crop in parts of Scotland by recent frosts, and that in not a few instances the oat crop had also been injured and appeals to landlords on behalf of tenants whose crops have thus suffered If anything so disastrous had happened in the North-West, with its so-often alleged vigorous climate, a tremendous outcry would have been raised, and the most deterrent arguments put forth by our opponents to warn intending immigrants not to come hither. The injury to the crops here from the last September frost was generally scarcely noticeable, which may be accounted for from the following reasons:—

1.—The dryness of the atmosphere (which is a peculiarity of this region), allows a much lower range of temperature without injury to vegetation, than in moister climates; and in addition to the heat, gives greater vigour to the plants; they grow rapidly but with firm texture, and are consequently able to resist much cold On account of their excessive vitality, the same as a person who has dined heartily on rich food, is better able to bear the cold of winter.

2.—The sudden change of temperature, which is often the case in this region, one extreme following another in rapid succession, is less deleterious to vigorous plants than a gradual lowering of temperature. The earth and plants still retain the heat previously absorbed, and are thus enabled to bear an atmosphere at 20° much better than at 35°, after their latent heat has been given off. The soil of the prairie is in general dry, and is rapidly warmed by the rays of the sun in spring

3.—The dryness of the air is accounted for from the fact that the moisture conveyed in the air has a tendency to soften the delicate covering of the plants, and thus render them more sensitive to cold.

4.—The heat retaining character of the soil. For these and several other reasons that might be mentioned, the climate of Manitoba is less subject to killing frosts than might at first be supposed, on account of its high latitude.

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## CHAPTER III.

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST—MANITOBA, ASSINIBOIA, ALBERTA, AND SASKATCHEWAN.

The remarkable, rapid progress of the Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territories is one of the most remarkable events which men in our day have the opportunity of seeing pass before them, and has been unparalleled in the history of the world. From a vast tract of country, destitute of dwelling houses, of cultivated fields, of fixed inhabitants—where Indians wandered over it, but did not leave a single trace of having made a home, or subdued the soil, or having changed the face of Nature—in the short space of a very few years a large area of this desolate waste has become the happy home of thousands of people, coming from nearly every quarter of the globe. Prosperous towns have sprung up as if by magic along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, having schools, churches, stores, mills, and wheat elevators. A celebrated Catholic missionary, who crossed the Rocky Mountains from British Columbia eastward to the head waters of the south branch of the Saskatchewan River, many years ago characterized the North-West as an "Ocean of prairies," and thus wrote his reflections:—

"Are these vast and innumerable rich fields of hay forever destined to be consumed by fire or perish in the autumnal snows? Can it be that they are doomed to remain forever inactive? Not so. The day will come when some laboring hand will give them value. A strong, active and enterprising people are destined to fill this spacious void. The wild beasts will, ere long, give place to our domestic animals; flocks and herds will graze in the beautiful meadows that border the numberless mountains, hills, valleys and plains of this extensive region."

Happily the dream and earnest wish of the good missionary is now a realized fact. Localities where wheat cultivation began only three years ago have already grown into prosperous settlements, and on every side contentment, prosperity and confidence prevails. The extension of railway facilities is changing the whole face of the country, and upon the continuous prosecution of such works the fulness of the development of the agricultural resources of the country will largely depend. The progress of railways has already been singularly rapid when the newness of the country is considered. Besides the Canadian Pacific running through a thousand miles of prairie, there are in operation the South-Western, over 100 miles; the Manitoba and North-Western, which will run to the growing and wealthy settlement of Prince Albert, on the banks of the two branches of the Saskatchewan, near their junction; this line when completed will be about 500 miles in length, in operation now about 150 miles. The Galt Railway running from Medicine Hat on the Canadian Pacific southerly to the coal mines on the Belly river, a distance of about 110 miles; this road was commenced and completed within the short space of four months during the past summer. Lastly, a line from Regina on the C. P. R. to Long Lake, north-westerly about 25 miles; all increasing the number of marketable points available to settlers, and bringing cultivators in the North-West within accessible distance of transportation facilities, combining to add to the wonderful resources of the country, which will give a power to Canada, in which every true patriot will rejoice. We are reproducing in the North-West the conquest of intelligence and industry over wild

nature, and with results very similar to what attended lik efforts put forth 500 miles south of us ten to twenty years ago. National necessities compelled the connecting of the Atlantic and Pacific States by railways, the construction of which were often years in advance of anything like general settlement. So in the Dominion national exigencies has forced transcontinental railway construction over thousands of miles in a few years, and in many cases through tracts but sparsely settled as yet. The onward march of settlement and cultivation in the North-West will cause the disappearance of occasional summer frosts, as it did in Iowa fifteen and in Nebraska ten years ago. For instance, from the Red river westward, for 60 miles south, and more than the same distance north, until the western Manitoba bound ry is passed, settlement and cultivation is pretty general, and as a natural consequence the drought is a thing of the past, the summer frost is gone, and the early autumn frost will soon be only in our remembrance. From the western boundary of Manitoba the belt of settlement and cultivation tapers off gradually, and the evidences of conquest over iregularity in climate. There is, therefore, still quite a long stretch of surpassingly rich soil, over which rude nature still holds her almost undisputed sway, and where she continues to practice her eccentricities in climate and other matters. But tantalizing as these eccentricities may be to the frontier settler for a time, the capricious dame has in our great broad land of promise never shown her wild forms of wrath, and has never devastated our prairies by cyclone or tornado, as she has so frequently done in more southern latitudes.

Mosquitos and a horse-fly called the "bull dog" are a drawback to newcomers; but people who have lived in the country think nothing of them; and they also disappear to a very large extent with the progress of cultivation and settlement. Such are some of the advantages and disadvantages which nature has placed in the way of the pioneer agriculturist in the North-West, and while the writer cannot be accused of painting a dishonest, alluring picture of the country, he has no hesitation in saying that in no part of the new world does she hold out greater inducements to the energetic and industrious, and nowhere does she hold out less allurement to the indolent or slothful.

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## CHAPTER IV.

THE ADVANTAGES OF PRAIRIE LANDS TO THE SETTLER—COST OF FARMING, WITH USEFUL HINTS FOR FUTURE GUIDANCE—PRICES, ETC.

The chief peculiar advantage of the prairie country as a field for settlement lies in the combination its offers of prairie and wood lands; the full advantage of which can be appreciated only by those who have had practical experience of the great and continued labour required to clear off and cultivate a new farm in a wooded country, and the obstruction it presents to the making of the roads necessary for the formation of new settlements.

Much is said of the advantage of the superior supply of wood for fuel and fencing afforded by wooded countries; but these are indefinitely over-estimated by many in comparing the facilities for settlement offered by prairie lands and wooded countries respectively. Such a comparison can be best appreciated by reducing the matter to figures as far as possible.

For the benefit of those not familiar with the labour of making a farm in the back-woods of the older Provinces, it may be mentioned:—

The first and most obvious cause of expense, in money or labors is the necessity of clearing off the wood before the land can be even imperfectly cultivated, the average cost of which is £3 5s. an acre; but, as the as the stumps still remain, an outlay of 25s. an acre my be set down as to be incurred afterwards, in getting rid of

them. When the stumps are of pine or the land stony, the cost will be much greater. In general, pine stumps, if removed at all, will cost at least 5s. apiece, and some will cost 25s. We have here as one item, at least £4 10s. an acre, of expense to be incurred, on account of the wood, before the land can be brought under the plough.

This is the cost of those who can afford to pay for the labour of skilled back-woodsmen, accustomed to the use of the axe, who can do twice as much of that kind of work as the immigrant from Europe, even though accustomed to other kind of hard labour.

To the tenant farmer or farm labourer from Great Britain, whose time and industry, if applied to the cultivation of our rich prairie land, would be even more valuable than that of the back-woodsman, the cost of clearing wood land in money's worth of his labour will be twice as much. If he be very young he may learn the use of the axe perfectly; if not, he will never learn to use it so as to be able to do as much work with it as the native back-woodsman.

As by far the greater part of the immigrants who settle in the woods have to clear their farms by their own unskilled labour, admitting even that they become gradually more proficient, the cost to them in their own labour, of clearing their farms, and removing the stumps, may, on a low estimate, be set down at £5 10s. an acre.

We do not speak here of the value which their labour in clearing would command. No one would give them such a price for it. We are speaking of the value of the labour unavoidably lost by them on account of the woods.

Here we have, then, to a family clearing, a farm of a hundred acres in ten or fifteen years, a loss of £550 *on account of the woods.*

The settler expends all this and *ten or fifteen years of the best of his life* in toilsome struggles to convert his farm into such proportions of open and wooded land as the settler on our partly wooded prairie lands finds his when he first goes on it; in other words, he actually receives from the Government the free gift of a ready-made farm of the richest kind. He can put as much land under the plough and reap the fruit of it soon after commencing, as the former can do after ten or fifteen years of crushing toil in clearing land, which necessarily consumes much time which he would gladly devote to more extensive cultivation and raising larger crops when the woods are not an obstruction to his doing so.

Besides this relief from heavy toil and time lost in clearing, there is another advantage of prairie land that operates strongly in the settler's favour, the full value of which can only be appreciated by a man who has made a beginning in the unbroken forest, an advantage which tells immediately to the personal comfort and benefit of the settler and his family—that is, the infinite abundance of the rich grass for summer and winter food for cattle, with which he is surrounded.

The new settler on our prairie land can keep as many cows for the supply of his family with milk and butter and cheese for sale, as it may suit his means to purchase *from the first day of his settlement;* for his pastures and meadows are already in abundance before him, and in most places the cattle can find the chief part of their winter food for themselves, and be fat in spring.

It is not surprising, therefore, that so many European immigrants have hitherto passed through Canada to seek the prairie land of the United States, which cannot compete in fertility with that of the Canadian North-West.

Nearly all the rivers and streams are skirted with belts of timber fit for building and fuel, principally oak, poplar, etc., and in some parts spruce and tamarac, with extensive forests. Poplar for fencing will generally also be found in small groves on the prairie, which gives it a beautiful park-like appearance. If the bark of this wood is peeled off it makes a good and lasting fence, small ash, oak or tamarac being used for posts, when they can be conveniently found. Where wood is scarce wire fence is used and costs very little. In such a locality settlers will find it a great advantage to set out trees and groves on their farms. Good barns and houses are a fine thing to have, but for actual worth a grove adds more than anything else The cost is almost nothing, and the benefit to be derived is something that should interest every settler who owns land in the North-West. Aside from the use the timber thus grown may be put to in a few years, the beauty they add to the farm is of vast importance.

How much more home-like and delightful are the farm houses surrounded by fine groves and hedges; how they impress a traveller in a country where there was formerly nothing but the bare prairie. They are in this regard a luxury which no farmer can afford to be without. But as a shelter during the winter, trees seem to be almost desirable and most important. The agent which has caused the destruction of forests that once occupied many parts of the prairies is undoubtedly fire, occasioned by the carelessness of travellers and Indians camping, and the same swift and effectual destroyer prevents the new growth from acquiring dimensions, which would enable it to check their annual progress. This, however, will soon be arrested with the advance of settlement and governmental care. In view of the importance of the subject, the following practical hints are offered, and will be found of value to the new settler as well as the old.

### INFORMATION ON TREE CULTURE.—DIRECTIONS FROM EXPERIENCE.—PREPARATION OF THE SOIL.

A proper and thorough cultivation of the soil is an indisputable pre-requisite to success; without this thorough preparation, failure and disappointment are inevitable.

To secure the best results the ground must have been previously broken and the sod thoroughly decomposed; then, with a common stirring plough, the ground to be planted should be given a thorough ploughing to the depth of ten inches, after which it should be thoroughly harrowed until the ground is completely pulverized. It is recommended that the ground for a single row for a fence or for a hedge should be prepared in the above manner, in a strip eight feet wide, in the centre of which the cuttings should be set in, leaving a margin for cultivation four feet wide on each side of the cuttings.

### METHOD OF PLANTING.

Stretch a small rope of suitable length over the exact place where it is desirable to plant the cuttings, each end of the rope to be staked firmly to the ground. The ground immediately beneath the rope should be smoothed off with a small iron rake. The planter should then take as many cuttings as he can conveniently carry under one arm and proceed to stick them in the ground close up to the rope. They should be stuck deep, leaving not more in any case than two buds out of the ground. If stuck in the full length it is just as well. It is advised that they should be stuck in standing, say at the angle of from 30 to 45 degrees and invariably butt end first. For a live fence or hedge, they should be stuck as nearly as possible one foot apart, 5,280 cuttings will plant a mile of such fence. Two good hands can plant this mile in a day if the ground is partly prepared for them.

### METHOD OF CULTIVATION.

As soon after planting as the weeds and grass show themselves hoeing should be commenced; every cutting should be carefully hoed. All of the four feet margin on each row should be hoed thoroughly, as soon afterwards as the cuttings have started, so that the row may be distinctly seen, the grass and weeds killed, leaving all of the four feet on each side of the row perfectly mellow. This process should be repeated two or three times during the season, as not a weed or a bunch of grass should be allowed to go to seed. Great care should be exercised in hoeing not to disturb the cutting of the young tree. After harvest all the weeds and grass found within the four feet margin should be gathered and burned.

Look out for prairie fires, and, if the plantation is in danger, *burn round it.*

It cannot be sufficiently impressed upon the tree planter *that thorough* cultivation the first season will ensure the success of the plantation. The second year the plants will do with half the cultivation, and the third year no further cultivation will be required. By pursuing this treatment the cuttings will be grown in five years to a size and height which will form an impenetrable barrier to horses and cattle, as well as a valuable wind-break. Ten acres planted in

this way in rows eight feet apart will in that period (five years) not only furnish all the fuel and fencing necessary to support a farm, but will also bring a handsome income from the fence poles which may be spared to less forunate neighbours.

The earlier the cuttings are planted after the frost is out of the grond the better, but the planting may be continued to the 1st of June with success. Cuttings set in spring ploughing time should have the earth pressed on each side of them as fast as the planting progresses.

The cuttings may be procured from the nearest natural groves or belts of woods on the margin of streams or the river sides.

### YOUNG TREES AND SEEDS.

Young aspen and poplar, one or two years old, may be gathered in waggon loads on the prairie in the vicinity of groves which fires have not run over. The seeds of the ash-leaved maple, the ash and the elm—very pretty and suitable for protection round the house and stables—may be found in abundance from these trees along the margins of the streams, and should be gathered as soon as ripe. Soft maple and elm, ripens in June, and should be planted before the seeds are dried, or they fail to come up; the seed should be planted in drills in small furrows previously made by the hoe, and should be liberally sown, then covered with a small iron rake to a depth of from one to two inches. Seed necessary to be kept throughout the winter should be kept in moist sand, in boxes or barrels, two parts of sand to one of seed, and where they will be kept cool and at about their natural moisture.

### FENCING.

It has become a custom among farmers in some districts, to save the expense of fencing, to herd cattle during the summer, confining them in small yards at night. Two or three boys can thus take care of the cattle and sheep of an entire neighbourhood —which limits the amount of fencing required to what is necessary for enclosing only a few acres about the house and stabling. This saving becomes considerable, in comparison with which the cost of herding is insignificant.

### PLAN FOR A SETTLER'S HOUSE.

A comfortable house, large enough for a family of several persons, may be built at a cost of $236, or about £47, 4s. stg. It would be 16 ft. 20 inside, contain a living room 13 × 16, bedroom 7 × 12, pantry 4 × 7, on the ground floor, with stairs leading to the attic. The studding would be twelve feet from the sills to the eaves, the lower storey eight feet; four feet above with a sloping roof will give an attic large enough for good sleeping accommodation. The house would need five windows, one outside and two inside doors. The items of expense would be approximately as following, not including assistant labour that may be required, the settler having his own tools.

| | |
|---|---|
| 4,000 feet common lumber, at $30 | $120 00 |
| 4,000 shingles, at $6 | 24 00 |
| Nails, etc. | 20 00 |
| Sheathing paper (to make air tight) | 20 00 |
| Doors, windows, etc. | 24 00 |
| For contingencies, say | 28 00 |
| Total | $236 00 |

Ready-made houses, built in sections and easily put together, can now be purchased in Manitoba, which will be found a great saving in labour, material and money. They are well finished, warm and comfortable, and range in prices from $150 to $335. See particulars in advertisement on back inside page of cover.

### THE COLONY SYSTEM.

The system of emigrating in small colonies will be found very advantageous as well as economical; neighbours in the old land may be neighbours in the new; friends may settle near each other, form communities and the nucleus of new settlements and towns, establish schools, and, in short, avoid many of the traditional hardships which have usually attended pioneer life. The colony system is also calculated to supply the needs of all members of the community, and to furnish employment to every industry. Whenever a colony is established there will soon be near its centre the storekeeper, blacksmith, carpenter, etc., post office, school house and church.

### COST OF FARMING, ETC.—ONE MAN'S EXPERIENCE.

The following reliable instance is offered, as proving what can be accomplished in profitable farming in Manitoba, or the North-West, with industry, economy, and careful business management, together with the necessary amount of capital to start with on a similar scale, say £1,000, which will include cost of building, living, etc.:—

Mr. Robert Mackay was a farmer in the eastern Province of Ontario. He came to Manitoba and settled in the southern part of the province, about twenty miles from Manitou. He took up a homestead of 160 acres, and pre-empted 160 acres more. He went upon his land in June, 1883, and managed that year to get settled, and to break the whole of his pre-emption lot and part of his homestead for seeding next spring. He kept an account of the cost of raising wheat, and of the price he received. His account is as follows:

#### EXPENDITURE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cost of land (pre-emption) | $160 00 |
| Breaking and back setting 160 acres, at $5 per acre | 800 00 |
| Seed, 280 bushels at 60 cents | 168 00 |
| Cost of machine, team and manual labor in seeding and harvesting | 960 00 |
| Cost of hauling to market 4,800 bushels | 960 00 |
| Total | $3,048 00 |

#### RECEIPTS.

| | |
|---|---|
| 4,800 bushels wheat at 70 cents | $3,360 00 |
| Net profit | $312 00 |

Mr. Mackay labored under very serious disadvantages. He was only twenty miles from market, but a deep and very difficult river-bottom had to be crossed to reach Manitou, and this fully doubled the trouble and cost of getting his grain to market. Still, on this 160 acres he paid out of the price of the crop, first, the whole cost of the land; secondly, the extra cost of breaking the sod; thirdly, all the cost of seeding, ploughing, harvesting, threshing, and hauling to market; and after all he had a net profit on the year's operations of $312. Work done by himself was charged at the price he would have paid had he employed others to do it.

It will be seen that Manitoba farmers can afford to sell wheat at 70 cents a bushel. At that price they will do very well. After the sod was once broken, Mr. Mackay could raise wheat for about $3 an acre for ploughing; 75 cents for seed; $6 for seeding, harvesting and threshing—total, $9.75 His crop yielded 30 bushels per acre, so that even at 50 cents per bushel at the barn he would have a net profit of $5.25 per acre. But when the railway passes his place he will probably get 65 cents a bushel at the barn, leaving him a net profit of $9.75 per acre, or $1,560 for his 160 acres, after paying himself for his labour and for the use of animals and implements. It must not be taken from this that none other than persons with £1,000 should settle in Manitoba, or the North-West; far from it—there is room for very many years to come for any man able and willing to work. with a small capital of even £150 on his arrival. With that amount he can make a fair start.

The question is often asked, how much money is indispensably necessary for the settler to get a fair start with? The answer to this depends very much upon who the questioner is, what family he has, with how little they could be content, and many other circumstances which cannot be anticipated. It is therefore best to tell simply *what may be done*, under ordinary adventitious circumstances. In the case of a poor man going on Government land: First, the entry fee for his homestead of 160 acres will be $10; a tent, etc., say $12; material for his house, if built of sawn lumber, size 16 × 18 feet, say $125—if the work is done by himself. For winter this can be made warm enough by building a sod wall outside of the boards. Furniture, consisting of a cooking stove, crockeryware, half a dozen chairs, one table, and two bedsteads (bringing his own bedding) will require about $40; to work his farm, a yoke of oxen, $130 to $150; a breaking plough, $20; waggon, $75; total $410, or £84.16.0. If he begins in the spring, he can grow corn, potatoes and garden vegetables, but will have to buy flour—if for a family of four persons—say $40; pork, $50; groceries, $20; a cow, $50; add for two or three pigs, chickens, hoes, shovel, rake, scythe, and other incidentals, say $40; and we have the following:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Entry fee for homestead | $10 |
| Tent, etc | 12 |
| Material for house | 125 |
| Furniture, exclusive of bedding | 40 |
| Farm implements and oxen | 245 |
| Living, the first 16 months, if no wheat sown | 160 |
| Incidentals | 40 |
| Equal to £130.10. stg. | $632 |

If all his time is not employed about his own farm, he may safely calculate upon having opportunity to work for his neighbors, and earn considerable. The above calculation is of course only intended as a guide for the settler with very limited means.

### THE SECOND YEAR.

He will require cash for seed wheat and a drag to harrow it in—say $75. This year he may confidently expect from his fifty acres of wheat 1,000 bushels at least. Deducting 200 bushels for bread and seed, and selling the remainder at say 60 cents per bushel, will bring him $480. His cash expenses may be limited to groceries, clothing, etc., say $150, and he has $330 to improve his house and add to his stock and farm implements. If he breaks fifty acres again this year, and secures a crop of say 2,000 bushels—a very low estimate—the third year, the accomplishment of which depends mainly upon his own industry, he will be able to make himself and family comfortable, and have a good home. All such as have more money than the sum given above will not be under the necessity of submitting to so many privations at first; but it may be repeated—three things are neceseary for success in any country: They are INDUSTRY, ECONOMY, and CAREFUL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.

### IMPLEMENTS NEEDED—PRICES, ETC.

For the information of those with more ample means and desiring to farm on a larger scale the following is added as a detailed list of present prices of agricultural implements and machinery. (See ad.)

| | |
|---|---|
| Waggons, complete | $ 70 @ $ 90 |
| Extra prairie breaking plough | 20 @ 25 |
| Cross plough, 13 inches | 17 @ 20 |
| Cultivators, 5 teeth | 7 @ 9 |
| Harrows, iron, with 60 teeth | 15 @ 20 |
| Sulky plough | 60 @ 65 |
| (These sulky ploughs are much in use, saving the labour of walking, the horses being driven as in a waggon.) | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sulky plough, 2 gangs | 115 | .. |
| Seeders | 70 @ | 90 |
| Reaping machines | 90 @ | 110 |
| Fanning mills | 35 @ | 45 |
| Mowing machine | 70 @ | 90 |
| Horse rakes | 30 @ | 35 |
| Self-binding harvester | 215 @ | 240 |

(Which is supplanting all others, as one man with one of these and bundle-carrier will accomplish the work of seven men with the ordinary reapers.)

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## CHAPTER V.

WATER AND FUEL.—RIVERS AND LAKES.—GAME, FISH, FRUITS, ETC.

Manitoba and the North-West is on the whole well watered. There is a system of navigable rivers and lakes of immense extent, which of themselves form a remarkable feature of the continent, and generally throughout there are numerous smaller rivers, lakes and coulees. On the plains and in all parts where the settler would take up land, water is easily obtained by digging wells to the depth of from twenty to fifty feet, and in some places flowing wells of cold pure water have easily been obtained. There are also occasional natural springs of pure water. In places where large supplies of water are required at a distance from the rivers, the principle of the artesian well has been tried with more or less success, and where salt water has been struck, the boring has been carried below this again, in such a way as to obtain fresh water in the tube. The experiments in artesian wells, however, are yet far from exhaustive, and it has not been found that the practical farmer requires anything of this kind. An abundant supply of good water is frequently obtained by simply erecting dams across a small creek at very little expense. In some parts of the country alkaline deposit on the land is regarded by some as an objectionable feature. The water drawn from the immediate locality of these alkaline soils should certainly be avoided, and strangers to the district should be particularly careful in this respect; but even in these alkali lands springs of beautiful pure water are to be met with. Much more has been made of this difficulty than is really necessary. The country is so vast it is easy to avoid the lands which are thus marked with alkali, and these waters are most easily detected by their taste. Good waters and fertile land can be so generally obtained. We must not forget that the thousands upon thousands of square miles which have been so suddenly opened up, were only a few years since the almost undisturbed haunt of the Indian, various kinds of game and wild animals, and that we should not expect to find it all in good condition. With such a very large proportion of the North-West of such a thoroughly valuable character, it is certainly undesirable to give undue prominence to small portions, which may be supposed to possess objectionable conditions, and which may be regarded as a detail of land improvement which will be subsequently worked out as the necessity arises. Meantime a home is offered to many thousands who seek for the land which now lies ready for their use.

The supply of fuel is next in importance to that of water, and this, fortunately for the country, is found in illimitable quantities. By the wise provision of Providence where wood is scarce coal is in abundance. The problem of an abundant and cheap supply of fuel for the North-West is forever set at rest by the recent opening of the Galt mines and others on the Saskatchewan, from which a practically unlimited supply can now be drawn, and it has been calculated that there cannot be much less than 500,000 square miles that are underlaid by true coal The average breadth of this belt is about 250 miles.

The coal from the Galt mine, to which a railway connecting with the Canadian Pacific has recently been opened, which is owned and operated by a company of English capitalists, possesses great heat-giving power, and is considered quite as good as the bituminous coals from Pennsylvania, with this advantage, that it does not cause the annoyance from dirty dense smoke, from which these bituminous coals are inseparable. In short it comes nearer to the famous Scotch splint coal than anything yet tried, and this coal is looked upon as the finest parlour coal in Great Britain, owing to its clear, clean, burning properties, in which it is if anything inferior to the Galt.

It is found by actual measurement and calculation that under a square mile o territory there are 9,000,000 tons of coal, enough for the supply of a generation in the North-West, and yet there are hundreds of thousands of such square mile of coal! Whatever question there may be of the limited supplies of England, therefore, giving out, there can be none as respects these regions.

It is also to be observed that anthracite coal, so important if not essential for many manufactures, has been found on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, within a mile of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The importance of this discovery for the North-West is very great, as iron is also found throughout the coal region. These are facts which point in the future to commercial and industrial supremacy, and this in the near future, which will have a marked influence in giving money value to the products of the plains. Straw is used with great economy and efficiency for the driving of steam engines for the threshing out of grain and other operations on farms. Petroleum is known to exist over large areas, and will probably before long be developed by enterprising capitalists, and form a large branch of commerce with the nations of the Pacific ocean.

## RIVERS AND LAKES.

The largest and most important river in the North-West is

*The Saskatchewan*—The North and South branches of the Saskatchewan, or Ki-sis-kah-chewan (the river that runs swift), have their sources in the Rocky Mountains, but a few miles apart. From their nearly common source the North branch diverges north-eastward, and the South branch, or Bow River, south-eastward, till at two hundred and fifty miles due eastward they attain a distance of three hundred miles from each other, the south branch being there within forty-five miles of the frontier; then gradually approaching, they meet at five hundred and fifty miles eastward from their source.

The length of the North branch, by the manuscript field notes of a survey, is 772½ miles, and that of the South or main branch is about 810 miles.

From their junction, the course of the main Saskatchewan to Lake Winnipeg is 282 miles. This and the two branches are navigated by steamers nearly to the Rocky Mountains. The magnitude of this magnificent river will be more fully understood by the following comparison, the total length being 1,864½ miles:—

It is 184 miles longer than the Ganges.
" 1164 " " " " Rhine.
" 1649 " " " " Thames,
And only 376 miles shorter than the Nile.

*The Red River* rises in Minnesota, in the United States, close to the sources of the Mississippi, and enters British Territory at the boundary line of Manitoba, about 120 miles from its mouth, where it discharges into Lake Winnipeg; it is navigable for about 400 miles, commodious steamers, carrying freight and passengers, ply the river; also several smaller tug steamers.

*The Assiniboine.*—This river, with its rich and beautiful valleys, by its very winding course, is over 600 miles in length. For 220 miles in direct distance from its mouth, its course is nearly West, and above that its course for upwards of 200 miles in direct distance is north-westerly, lying nearly parallel to Lake Winnipeg, at a distance of 240 miles west of it. At 220 miles west from its mouth, where it turns northward, it receives its tributary, the river Qu'Appelle, which continues directly westward 250 miles further, having its source near the elbow of the south

branch of the Saskatchewan, 470 miles directly westward from the mouth of the Assiniboine, at the City of Winnipeg, in Manitoba.

*Red-Deer*, *Bow*, and *Belly Rivers* are tributaries of the south branch of the Saskatchewan, having their source in the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, between parallels 50° and 52° N., and drain a beautiful and most fertile region, and already settlers are flocking into this inviting country, which is celebrated as a stock-raising country, and very extensive cattle and sheep ranches are established—some of them by English noblemen and gentlemen of wealth.

*Battle River* enters the north branch of the Saskatchewan, about 170 miles above the main forks. It drains a large part of the country between the north and south branches, and has its source about 10 miles from the north branch at the foot of the Mountains.

*Qu'Appelle*, or *Calling River*, runs through a delightful valley, and of which the expansion forms eight beautiful lakes; where the best kind of whitefish abounds. A number of English gentlemen are settled in this district, who have gone extensively into farming and stock raising. It is within 18 miles of Qu'Appelle Station on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

These are only a few of the principal rivers, and are fed by numerous smaller streams throughout the North-West.

### THE LAKES

may also be said to be innumerable. The largest is

*Lake Winnipeg*—264 miles long, and averaging 35 miles wide, and is the common reservoir of these confluent streams, discharging its waters into Hudson's Bay.

*Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegoosis* are connected with Lake Winnipeg, on the west by navigable channels, and are two other large bodies of water, being together as long as Lake Winnipeg, with about half its breadth. The water area of these lakes will equal that of Ontario and Erie combined.

### GAME.

The farmers of the United Kingdom are in general fond of a bit of sport, and they can here enjoy it without offending the landlords. Wild duck and geese are here in countless thousands during the season. When these are not to be had the prairie grouse and wood partridge afford excellent sport and a grateful addition to the farmers' larder, while for more aspiring sportsmen the moose, elk and deer roam through the woods in large herds, and only require perseverance, a good rifle and steady aim to become the trophy of the hunter. Bears are also numerous, and, unless when brought to bay, harmless. Otter, mink, beaver and muskrat are the pincipal aquatic animals that frequent the water courses. The prairie grouse and wood partridge are fairly abundant, and the strict preservation laws which have lately been enacted will, no doubt, tend to their increase, by stopping their destruction out of season.

### FISH.

The larger lakes abound in white fish, a delicious article of food, weighing from four to eight pounds. The rivers and streams also abound in pickerel, pike, cat fish, sturgeon, sun fish, gold eyes, etc., and in the cool streams coming from the Rocky Mountains, the disciple of Walton may find all the sport he desires, as they abound with magnificent trout from one pound up to five.

### BEES

thrive well in the North-West, as they require a clear, dry atmosphere, and a rich harvest of flowers; if the air is damp, or the weather cloudy, they will not work so well. Another reason why they work less in a warm climate is, that the honey gathered remains too fluid for sealing a longer time, and, if gathered faster than it thickens, it sours and spoils. Our clear, bright skies, dry air and rich flora are well

adapted to the bee culture, and since the process of burying bees during the winter has been introduced successfully in Minnesota, and generally adopted in the North-Western States, the length and coldness of our winter ceases to be an obstacle. In fact, experience in Minnesota proves that bees succeed better there, consume less honey during the winter, and the colony comes out much stronger than in warmer climates.

FRUITS.

The resident of Manitoba or the North-West has nature's garden to gather from, and a very bountiful garden it is. Strawberries in a good year, are so abundant that a large pail may be filled in a very short time. The berry is small, but the flavour perfect, and by many preferred to the cultivated. Raspberries, black and red currants, quite as good as those cultivated in Europe, and plums are very plentiful in sandy soil, while in the marshes cranberry is in great profusion. The prairie supplies the kitchen with all the herbs necessary for culinary purposes, and is rich in medicinal plants. The bluffs of timber are loaded with hops of the very finest quality. If growing so luxuriant in their wild state, what would be their yield under cultivation? A resident settler, writing on this subject, says:—

"Hops will do well cultivated. I have planted wild hops out of the bush into my garden along the fence and trained on poles, bearing as full and fine and as large as any I ever saw at Yalding and Staplehurst, in Kent.

"Louis Dunesing (Emerson)."

The country is too young to find enclosed gardens, but after a time with good walls protecting from the bleak winds, many European fruit-bearing trees can be successfully grown. The grape-vine also grows luxuriantly in many places. In Minnesota, the wild plum improves so much by being transplanted and cultivated, as to equal any of the garden varieties.

The high bush cranberry also improves by transplanting, and makes a beautiful ornament to the grounds about the prairie farmer's house.

The culture of fruit, especially the apple, has been almost entirely neglected; in fact it has only been attempted by a few settlers in the Province of Manitoba, probably on account of there being generally such an abundance of wild fruits, or the difficulty of procuring cuttings.

For this and other reasons an erroneous impression has prevailed, that we could not raise fruit or apple orchards. This is a mistake, and an extraordinary inference, when we consider that many forms of wild fruit are indigenous to the country, abounding in the woodlands, and unsurpassed in flavour, size, and productiveness.

The celebrated and delicious apple peculiar to the neighborhood of Montreal, known as the "Fameuse," will no doubt be successfully raised in Manitoba and the North-West. Although we are nearly five degrees further north than Montreal, yet we are twenty-six degrees further west. The "Fameuse" is a rich and beautiful apple, as already remarked peculiar to the climate and soil of the island of Montreal, a rich loam, with a heavy clay sub-soil, which retains the rooting and prevents the growth of the tree pushing ahead too rapidly for the severe frosts of that latitude. It should be borne in mind, that it is not the severity of the winter that kills the young apple tree, but the *alternate thawing and freezing* of the south side of the tree in the spring, which can be avoided by mulching and protecting the stem of the tree when young, by a wrapping of straw; with these precautions, and procuring plants from a suitable climate, or planting the seeds, and thus acclimatising, there is no reason why every farm may not have its orchard in Manitoba, as in other parts of the Dominion.

FLAX

grows in great luxuriance on land first broken, and is beneficial in hastening the disintegration and decomposition of the sod. It is cultivated by a few merely for the seed, which sells at a dollar to a dollar and a half per bushel. The fibre is burned.

The Belfast and other merchants and manufacturers would do well to turn their attention to this country for an unfailing supply. It is well known that flax and hemp come only to perfection in a cool country; their bark in southern climates is harsh and brittle, because the plant is forced into maturity so rapidly, that the lint does not acquire either consistency or tenacity. The Canadian North-West will prove equal for flax and hemp growth to Northern Europe.

## CHAPTER VI.

WHEAT GROWING.—LABOUR-SAVING MACHINERY AND IMPLEMENTS.—STOCK RAISING.—SHEEP AND WOOL GROWING.—DAIRY FARMING AND CHEESE MAKING.

Blodgett, an American authority of repute, states "that the basin of the Winnipeg (which refers to the vast country drained by the waters flowing into Lake Winnipeg) is the seat of the greatest wheat product on this continent, and probably *in the world.*" This statement is amply verified by the fact that while in the best wheat-growing districts in America, viz., Minnesota and Dakota, the average yield from official sources is set down at *seventeen* bushels to the acre, in Manitoba and the North-West it is *twenty-five*, the range of ordinary yields being from 15 to 40. The wheat grown is spring wheat. The variety most commonly used is the Scotch Fife. The great general excellence of production is evidenced by the fact that considerably the larger per cent. of wheat grown in any one year in the North-West grades in the market as No. 1 hard, and it commands a higher price than any other grain when it goes to market unmixed and well cleaned. The average price received by the producer at the stations along the line of the Canadian Pacific and other roads has usually been from 60 to 80 cents per bushel. The crop of some seasons of course brings a higher price; for that of 1884 many farmers obtained as much as $1 per bushel. Many very large farms, consisting of thousands of acres in one body of land, are conducted in the North-West. This class of estates in crop are known as the bonanza farms, and in an ordinary fruitful year they return a profit of from $600 to $700 for every 100 acres in wheat after the first crop, under the average of farming conditions. As an illustration of the superiority of the spring wheat grown in Manitoba and the North-West the following instance may be used. An extensive miller in Minnesota was astonished at the yield of wheat in his hand. He said "We have had an excellent harvest in Minnesota (considered one of the best wheat-growing states in America) but I never saw more than two well formed grains in each group or cluster forming a row, *but here the rate is three grains in each cluster. That's the difference between twenty and thirty bushels per acre.*"

Wheat growing has been termed the "back-bone of agriculture." When the vital importance of maintaining and increasing the production of a grain so essential to civilized man is considered, it cannot be assigned a less place in agricultural economy.

England, who has long been conceded the mistress of the seas, and whose dependencies well nigh encircle the globe, has so stimulated and enlarged her capacity for wheat-growing, that her annual average is twenty-eight bushels per acre; but her consumption so far outruns her production, that she lays the world under contribution for her supplies of bread. The grave significance of the question involved is not susceptible of concealment, when the fact is considered that while the consumption of wheat, as the choice food of the human race, is rapidly extending, the capacity of wheat-growing regions for its production is rapidly diminishing. We are told that in New England, U. S., the entire wheat product of a year is barely sufficient to feed her own people for three weeks, and the State of New York for six months. In the light of these facts it is not difficult to foresee that the North-West of the Dominion of Canada must yet assume a proud pre-eminency in wheat growing.

The following facts are demonstrated :—

*First.*—That there exists a constantly and inevitably increasing foreign demand for breadstuffs, with a constantly increasing demand for domestic consumption.

*Second.*—That therefore the value of wheat, as a commercial staple, is advancing in a compound ratio.

*Third.*—That, within this zone, the climate and other causes tend to concentrate the growth of wheat in the best districts.

*Fourth.*—The prairie lands of the Canadian North-West are the best of these wheat districts, having the largest average yield, the most certain crops, and the best and healthiest grains.

As has been stated, wheat is the principal crop. It has, in fact, been so far almost exclusively the crop marketed. It will doubtless remain the chief crop for many years. Though of all the cereals the shyest bearer, it commands so much higher

price than any other, the cost of transportation is so much less as compared with value. The possibility of over-production in the wheat-growing districts in any year so remote, and its cultivation in Manitoba and the North-West has been so satisfactory and lucrative indeed, on account of the *quality* and *reliability* of the crop, that it will doubtless for years to come allure the attention of the farmers from more general and varied cultivation of their farms and improved lands. It cannot, of course, be claimed that the Canadian North-West wheat lands will never deteriorate and wear out under the unremitted cultivation of wheat, although it may be stated wheat has been grown in some of the older settlements on the Red River for forty years successively without fertilizers, and the crop is said to still maintain its excellence of quality and large average yield. That waste without restoration will not in time degrade the old wheat fields of Manitoba and the North-West cannot be hoped ; but it is certain that by the superabundance of their natural forces they can sustain such a course of extravagance without decline of production for a greater length of time than has been known, or is possible in other countries. This proves or asserts nothing in palliation of wasteful practice ; public economy, on the other hand, demands that a country of such very remarkable excellence in the production of the great staple, wheat, should be carefully preserved from degradation of soil. But the writer seeks not to advise. His mission is to state the facts as he finds them.

### STOCK-RAISING

in the Canadian North-West is now becoming an important and profitable industry, and in the region most favourable, viz: the District of Alberta, along the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains, it is carried on by ranchers on a very large scale, and is one of the most promising of the diversified channels into which the industry of the capitalist is to be directed. The progress already made in its direction, affords a gratifying proof of the rapid growth of this interest in the North-West. The general healthfulness of the climate, and the favorable conditions for feeding cattle, horses and sheep are the attractions and chief advantages. The cold, dry air of the winter sharpens the appetite, and promotes a rapid secretion of fat, and vigourous muscular development. As a general thing, in that district the animals get through the winter without other food than that supplied by grazing on wild grass, and the quality of the beef and mutton has been pronounced of superior excellence. The largest owners of horned stock are doing much to improve its quality by infusing short-horn blood into the herds. The vast tracts of open country unoccupied will afford for many years to come a wide range of almost free pasturage, only a nominal rent being charged by the Government in leasing grazing lands. Cattle ranching is particularly suited for a certain class of immigrants, viz: sons of gentlemen who find every profession at home overstocked, and is a most enjoyable and healthy occupation, combining excellent fishing and hunting with good society. Among the principal ranchers of Alberta, or connected with them, will be found retired officers of high rank in the British army and navy, one or two M.P.'s of the English House of Commons, and many gentlemen of education and refinement, who now work away on their ranches, are healthy and robust, and everything an Englishman ought to be, and, it may be added, although they are always in the saddle, nevertheless they lose none of their good English manners, and none of their original culture.

### SHEEP AND WOOL GROWING

is one of the greatest and most productive industries, in connection with cattle raising, and is now being carried on in the North-West, under the most favorable conditions of climate that can anywhere be found. Eligible locations for pursuing this branch of enterprise in a country so large, are to be found without limit, and there is no doubt that this business, conducted on intelligent principles, is certain to yield large profits. There is not room in this pamphlet to give the subject of wool-growing the attention which its importance deserves. From the experience of some settlers who have been engaged in the business in Australia, the following conclusions are established beyond a reasonable doubt:—

1.—That from the nature of our climate and the general undulating character

of the prairies, the richness of the grasses, and the purity of the waters, this country is adapted in an eminent degree to the healthful and profitable breeding of sheep.

2.—That sheep are entirely free from the diseases which cut them off so largely in more southern climates.

3.—That the characteristic dryness of our winters, not only protects them from the casualties to which they are exposed in moister winter climates, but stimulates them to a more healthy and vigorous growth.

According to established laws of nature, cold climates require a larger quantity and finer quality of wool, or fur, than warmer ones; hence the fur and wool-bearing animals are found in perfection only in northern regions—the excessive heat to which their wool subjects them in a warm climate, as in Australia, generates disease. The best information shows that it costs about 10 to 12 cents to produce a pound of wool, which sells here or 20 cents, yielding a net profit of eight to ten cents per pound. The cost of producing a bushel of wheat varies with the yield, the average cost being about $6.25 per acre, or about 25 cents per bushel for an average yield of 25 bushels to the acre. The average product of wool is not subject to fluctuation, and the price also is far steadier than that of breadstuffs. Well-fed ewes produce fleeces from 3 to 3½ pounds. Wethers produce fleeces from 6 to 8 pounds, the wool being of good quality. All breeds stand the winter cold well, but the Cotswold the best. An instance came to the knowledge of the writer, where a flock of about twenty strayed away in the beginning of winter and were found in the spring fat, and none missing, but an addition to the flock in lambs. An experienced settler writes as follows. "I believe this to be equal to any country for sheep growing. I prefer the Cotswold breed to any other for this country, as they are good shearers, prolific breeders, and good for mutton. My sheep have been troubled with no disease, but the dogs have killed and wounded some. I believe that in this branch of husbandry this country has few equals, and no superiors in any country of the globe."

To simply raise a crop of wheat from the new prairie, is but one remove from barbarism; but when we see upon a farm a flock of pure blood sheep, and a herd of well bred cattle, we are sure that behind them all is superior intelligence, and we feel confident the farm is not running out.

### DAIRY FARMING AND CHEESE MAKING

will also become an important source of wealth in the North-West, and most excellent cheese is now made in Manitoba. At the present price of butter, from 18 to 25 cents per pound, there certainly would be much more profit in cheese making than in butter making, as it only takes nine pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese, while it takes fifteen to twenty pounds of milk to make a pound of butter. Placing the very highest estimate upon the cost of running a cheese factory, that would manufacture the milk of 300 cows for a season of six months, the expense would not exceed $2,250. Three hundred cows, at a very low estimate, would give 900,000 pounds of milk during the season, which would make 90,000 pounds of cheese, and the latter at say 12½ cents per pound, an average price, would realize $11,250—or a net profit to the factory of $9,000, or $30 per cow for the season. Then there would be some profit in feeding hogs. From 900,000 pounds of milk would be obtained 27,000 pails of whey, which would feed 80 hogs for the season The cost of a building about 20×40, two stories high, for a factory, would cost about $2,500, and the necessary machinery could be put in for about $900. These are figures which have been obtained from farmers of practical experience in the country, and prove conclusively what a great source of wealth there is in the North-West by the establishment of cheese and butter factories for European consumption.

### MIXED FARMING.

To the average class of settler it may be said that the old adage, "do not put all your eggs in one basket" is very applicable to farming in this country. Grain crops, roots, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry should all have their place, each helping to swell the profit account—excess in one compensating for deficiency in the other.

## CHAPTER VII.

TESTIMONY OF SETTLERS — THEIR EXPERIENCE. — EVIDENCE OF EMINENT MEN FROM PRACTICAL OBSERVATION OF THE PRODUCTIVENESS OF THE NORTH-WEST. — A COMPARISON.

The following has been addressed to the Edinburgh (Scotland) *Scotsman*, and gives very minute details of the attractions and resources of the new district of ALBERTA. Its metropolis, Calgary, is rapidly rising in importance, and is the most westerly town on the line of the Canadian Pacific before entering the Mountains:

SIR,—Having recieved numerous letters from parties in Great Britain desirous of obtainining some knowledge of a country which has only recently opened up, and of which many incorrect ideas have been entertained in years past, we, the undersigned residents, have thought it advisable to give a description of this country, and enumerate some of its many advantages as a field for emigration. Let it be clearly understood, however, that these are not the remarks of parties wishing to allure unsuspecting individuals from their homes for personal interests, but a setting forth of facts by men who have resided in the country for a considerable time, and are, therefore, capable of giving an opinion based on personal observations and experience.

Alberta is situated at the base of the Rocky Mountains, extending from the international boundary line to about the 54° north lat., and from the 112° west lon. to the summit of the Rockies. In this district are included hundreds of miles of rolling prairie land, rich and fertile, terminating about twenty miles from the base of the mountains, where the country begins to assume a different aspect—the land now becomes of a broken nature, forming what are known as the foot hills. These are covered with splendid timber and intersected with numerous streams. The view from this point is grand, the mountains towering up to a tremendous height, with snow-capped peaks; the beautiful rivers and creeks, with their clear, icy-cold water and broken banks; the picturesque lakes, surrounded by trees, form a scene which equals, if it does not excel, any among the Alps.

The climate of Alberta is, we do not hesitate to assert, one of the finest in the world. The summers are warm; the winter weather is not nearly so severe as would be imagined, the influence of a warm southwesterly wind, termed Chinook, having an ameliorating effect on the climate. True, the mercury drops occasionally to 36 degrees below zero, but the average temperature during the winter months is from 15 degs. to 30 degs. above zero. Alberta can boast more sunshine than any country in the same latitude. The air is peculiarly healthy and salubrious, and few who have spent a season here are willing to change it for any clime.

The pioneer settlers who have already ventured so far west have produced crops which cannot be excelled in Canada, cereals, vegetables, and root crops producing excellent yields. Wild fruits of various kinds grow luxuriantly throughout the country.

There are some forty thousand head of stock roaming at large over the prairies, owned by various ranchmen in this district, which are neither fed nor sheltered at any season. It has also been demonstrated beyond a doubt that the territory is second to none as a sheep country, and large flocks are expected here this season.

The mineral wealth of Alberta is enormous. Immense coal deposits are known to exist, and many of them are now being worked. Gold, both quartz and alluvial, silver, copper and iron have been discovered in paying quantities, and thousands of men are preparing to flock to the mineral fields.

Calgary, the metropolis of this vast and fertile country, is beautifully situated in the valley of the Bow River. Two rivers wend their way through the valley, and a series of terraces form an ampitheatre, which makes the situation exceedingly attractive. The city is so placed geographically that it is the natural distributing centre for the entire country north and south, and for the mining camps in the mountains. Although but yet in its infancy, Calgary possesses business houses of no mean pretentions, carrying stocks replete with all articles necessary for wear or consumption; it also has railway and telegraphic communication. a public school, three churches, a weekly newspaper, and the many other requirements of a city,

Its close proximity to the Pacific coast will also tend to enhance its importance as a business centre, and to capitalists and manufacturers it offers many inducements. There are hundreds of thousands of acres awaiting cultivation which will, we are assured, well repay all labor and capital expended upon them.

JOHN GLENN, Fish Creek.
S. W. SHAW, Fish Creek.
J. G. FITZGERALD, Calgary.
WM. HUDSON, Calgary.

A few extracts from settlers' letters, giving their experience in different parts of Manitoba and the North-West are herewith submitted.

S. W. CHAMBERS, of Wattsville, P.O., Man., writes thus:—"After more than five years' experience in this country, I am satisfied that no other country in the world can approach the Canadian North-West as a field for agricultural productions; and to the man who is willing to rough it first and to roll up his sleeves and work for two or three years, it offers a comfortable independence in a very few years, with very little capital expenditure."

G. R. BLACK, of Wellwood, County Norfolk, Manitoba, says:—"This country is the best place for a man with a small capital to make a home that I have seen, and I have been through eight States of the United States, and I have seen nothing to compare to this Canadian North-West. I would advise settlers coming from Europe to bring nothing but clothes and bedding and light materials. I would say in explanation that I have raised as high as 50 bushels of wheat and 75 of oats, but that is not the rule."

THOMAS CARTER, of Woodlands, Manitoba, says:—"The Canadian North-West needs no vindication. It will soon be as well known to the world as is the Rock of Gibraltar. As for the cold, I have been more miserably cold on the heights of Shorncliffe, Kent (England), than I ever have been in the North-West. Of course a man may allow himself to freeze to death if he chooses, or if he is standing near a fire he may allow himself to burn if he chooses—it's all a matter of taste."

G. A. CAMERON, of Indian Head, N.W.T., writes:—"As good a place as a man can find if he has plenty money and brains, or if he has no money, but muscle and pluck. Send as many here as you can and they will bless you for it."

WILLIAM TAYLOR, of Beulah, P.O., Man., says:—"Settlers should be used to labour with their hands without kid gloves unless provided with ample means. The grumblers here are composed of men who are raised idle at home, who have not means to carry it out here. Labouring men and hired girls coming out with those that hire them do not want to be bound for any length of time, as wages rule much in higher here than the old countries."

CHRISTIAN TROYER, of Sec. 22, T 2, R 2, W 2, Alameda, Assiniboia, N.W.T., says:—"I should advise intending settlers to encumber themselves as little as possible with extras, with the exception of clothing, and be cautious on their arrival to husband their resources. As I claim to be a successful North-Wester I would be pleased and most happy to give advice and information to intending settlers free."

J. R. NIFF, of Moosinim, N.W.T., states:—"The fact that I settled shows that I had confidence in the country, and after two seasons' experience I am more than satisfied. As a grain-growing country I believe, with proper cultivation and energy, it cannot be exceeded."

GEORGE RODDICK, an old sailor, who knew little or nothing of farming, and had very little capital, arrived in the country in 1879 with a wife and seven children. After struggling through many difficulties as an early pioneer, he is now in very comfortable circumstances and states:—"During the past season we raised 6,200 bushels of grain, besides potatoes and other vegetables. The season was a remarkably dry one, and the grain ripened very unevenly, and in consequence a considerable quantity was injured by frost, especially what was late sown. Farmers will no doubt learn an important lesson, and sow as early as possible in future. The

average yield during the past five years, as far as I can ascertain, has been: Of wheat, 25 bushels to the acre, and oats 50 bushels. We have never had a bad crop since we came to the country."

Here is one instance out of many, of a wealthy Englishman, who is proving his faith in the country by his investment in it, and who is now sure of a fair reward for the capital, energy and hard work which he has wisely and judiciously expended—he resides on the banks of the Assiniboine River, about 18 miles north of Voiden on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Mr. H. M. Power came from Herefordshire in England to this country early in 1882. After inspecting various parts of the country he finally decided to purchase five and a half sections, containing 3,520 acres, from the C. P. R., on their then price with their rebate allowance for settlement. He entered upon the land in June, 1882, and broke some land that year. In 1883 he broke a large quantity. He began putting stock upon the farm in the fall of 1882. After two years' improvements, he had 1,240 acres of wheat in first-rate condition, with an average yield of 25 bushels to the acre; 40 acres of barley, and 260 acres of oats, and a finer growth of cereals it would be hard to find. Potatoes, turnips and other vegetables were all excellent crops. The whole crop was safely gathered. Seeding was begun on the 2nd of April, and the wheat was all sown by the first week in May. 260 acres in addition were broken during the following year, besides putting up 500 tons of hay for the use of the cattle in winter. There were then 203 head of cattle on the farm. 76 calves were born during the two years, the cattle and calves looking remarkably well, large and strong. This is not a very bad record of growth in two years. But it is not all. Mr. Power has a section of 640 acres near Moosomin on which there were 125 acres with a fine crop of wheat, and 75 acres additional last year. At the two farms on the Assiniboine, and at Moosomin, the yield of wheat was about 34,000 bushels. Mr. Power has since purchased seven sections, or nearly 5,000 acres, at Whitewood, where he at once broke 1,000 acres for crop the following year. He now has over 3,000 acres of land cropped. The land is all broken and backset before being sown, and is ploughed in the fall so as to be sown as early as possible in the spring. Still pushing ahead with increased confidence, he visited the country to the north, and was so impressed with its advantages that he purchased 11,000 acres, in fee simple, from the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, and along its line. On this he has broken 100 acres, and intends to commence stock raising on a large scale. These facts stated are all important and encouraging to others who may have the means and desire to do likewise.

The Oban *Times* is frequently the channel by which communications strongly adverse to the Canadian North-West, reach the British public. One correspondent of this class has recently been severely taken to task by Mr. Lamont, a Scotchman now residing at Shoal Lake, Manitoba. For example, to the statement that "No man who has less than £500 cash has any business coming out to these trackless prairies," Mr. Lemuel replies that he knows scores, or he might say hundreds of Highlanders who came to Manitoba "four or five years ago with not one quarter of that sum, and who are now comfortably housed, both themselves and their cattle, and have in many instances got farm machinery, horses, etc., the whole of which is completely paid for."

His Grace Archbishop Tache of St. Boniface, who during a long residence has travelled extensively throughout the North-West, says:—

"The coal fields which cross the different branches of the Saskatchewan are a great source of wealth, and favour the settlement of the valley in which nature has multiplied picturesque scenery that challenges comparison with the most remarkable of its kind in the world. I can understand the exclusive attachment of the children of the Saskatchewan for their native place. Having crossed the desert, and having come to so great a distance from civilized countries, which are occasionally supposed to have a monopoly of good things, one is surprised to find in the extreme West so extensive and so beautiful a region. The author of the universe has been pleased to spread out, by the side of the grand and wild beauties of the Rocky Mountains, the captivating pleasure grounds of the plains of the Saskatchewan."

Confining his remarks to the capabilities for stock-raising, His Grace further adds, referring to the great extent of pasturage:—

"The character and richness of its growth equalling the finest clover. It is known that in cold countries grass acquires a nutritive power which it juices have not time to develop in warmer climates."

The evidence and opinions of eminent scientific men and travellers who visited the country, and from close observation have expressed themselves as follows, is also submitted:—

Lord Milton, who spent some time in this country previous to its entering the Confederation of Canada, says:

"As an agricultural country, its advantages can hardly be overrated. The climate is milder than that of the same portion of Canada which lies within the same latitudes, while the soil is at least equal, if not of greater fertility. Coal of good sound quality is abundant in the Saskatchewan, Battle, Pembina and other rivers. In some places the beds are of enormous thickness, and may be worked without sinking, as it often crops out along the river banks. Cereals of almost every description flourish even under the rude cultivation of the half-breeds. The same may be said of all the root crops which are ordinarily grown in England, Canada or the Northern States of America."

Mr. W. B. Cheadle, the well-known author of the "North-West Passage by Land," who accompanied Lord Milton, also says:

"At Edmonton, eight hundred miles distant from Fort Garry, near the western extremity, wheat grows with equal luxuriance, and yields thirty to fifty bushels to the acre, in some instances even more. The root crops I have never seen equalled in England; potatoes get to an immense size, and yield enormously. Flax, hemp, tobacco, all grow well; all the cereals appear to flourish equally well; plums, strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries grow wild. The herbage of the prairie is so feeding that corn is rarely given to horses or cattle. They do their hard work, subsist entirely on grass, are most astonishingly fat; the draught oxen resemble prize animals at a cattle show. The horses we took with us were turned adrift at the beginning of winter, when snow had already fallen; they had been over-worked and were jaded and thin. In the spring we hunted them up, and found them in the finest condition, or rather too fat. The soil in La Belle Prairie, where we built our hut for the winter, was *four feet deep*, and free from rocks or gravel—the finest loam. The climate is that of Upper Canada, or perhaps rather milder. The summer is long and warm, the weather uniformly bright and fine; with the exception of occasional showers, a wet day is almost unknown. The winter is severe and unbroken by thaw but pleasant enough to those able to house and clothe themselves warmly." And again, when he recently (Sept. 1884) visited the country, with other members of the British Association, at a banquet given them, said—merely confirming the impressions he had formed on his first visit: "It gave him peculiar pleasure to make this, his second visit. He thought the present visit would be productive of great good. It had once been thought that those territories were barren and snowbound. This trip would result in pouring upon the people of England a flood of evidence which would convince the English people of the fertility and productiveness of the country here. He had been able to witness grain of every description growing in the country. Excellent wheat ranging from 20 to 35 bushels to the acre could be found growing in the country. Besides its agricultural advantages, this country was rich in mineral wealth."

Prof. John Macoun, M.A., Botanist, who thoroughly explored the country, says in his official report:

"In Crofutt's Trans-Continental Tourists' Guide occurs the passage, speaking of the Prairie West of Antelope, on the line of the Union Pacific Railway: 'We now enter on the best grass country in the world,' and further on it says: 'The country is destined at no distant day to become the great pasture land of the continent.' "Now," says Prof. Macoun, "I have passed over these plains from Laramie to Antelope, which are represented as being the best grazing lands in the world, and which are now supporting thousands of cattle, and they bear no more comparison to our plains (the Saskatchewan) than a stubble field does to a meadow. While they have 1,000 miles of sage plains (valueless), for bunch grass soon dies out

when pastured, and sage brush takes its place, we have over 1,000 miles, from East to West, of land covered at all times of the year with a thick sward of the richest grass, and which is so nutritious as to keep horses in good condition, though travelling as ours did, at the rate of forty miles per day."

Further on he says:

"That there is a great uniformity respecting soil, humidity and temperature throughout the whole region, is apparent from the unvarying character of its natural productions. Spring flowers were found on the plains April 11th, and the frogs croaking the same evening. During 20 years in Ontario, he never observed our first spring flower (Hepatica triloba) as early as that except twice."

The well-known writer, Professor Goldwin Smith, also visited the North-West in 1884, and gives his impression as follows:—

"That the North-West was a most magnificent country for wheat, and for cereals generally, could never be doubted; all doubt at any rate must vanish from the mind of anyone who beholds its seas of waving grain. That the wheat is of the very finest quality is also an admitted fact. The purity of the air, and the long, level horizon might remind us of descriptions of Sahara; but beneath us, instead of barren sand, is one of the gardens of the earth, and the destined seat of a great civilization."

Professor MacAdam, of Edinburgh, the eminent chemist, who had before made an analysis of the prairie soil, expressed himsef in the following very decided terms:—

"He had great faith in the soil, because he had examined it carefully. Whatever opinions he had previously formed about the crop-yielding power of the land in this North-West, now that he had examined it personally, those opinions were strengthened a thousand fold. He was familiar with farming in both England and Scotland, and he would have no hesitation in saying that he would advise all the farmers to emigrate to the Canadian North-West."

Lord Dufferin, the Marquis of Lorne, and the present Governor-General, Lord Lansdowne, who have travelled throughout the North-West, have frequently expressed in public the very highest opinions of the agricultural capabilities of the country, and the healthfulness of the climate.

The foregoing must be sufficient to carry conviction to the mind of the most ordinary intelligent intending emigrant, of the great superiority of the Canadian North-West as a future prosperous home, and where he does not forfeit his nationality by changing his residence. If an Englishman, he is an Englishman still —under English and English institutions.

## A COMPARISON.

It is well known that some of the fairest portions of the Western States are so fruitful of the causes of diseases as almost to preclude settlement, and thousands have left their comparatively healthly European homes to find untimely graves in the prairie soil of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, etc., etc.

It is an unfortunate fact that falsehoods and misrepresentations have been extensively made in England regarding the laws and the climate and soil of the Canadian North-West, by railway companies who have lands in the United States of which they wish to dispose. These companies and their immigration agents in the United Kingdom and Europe have not hesitated to misrepresent in the most unblushing manner everything connected with the Canadian North-West, conscious that the facts would show that their country as a home for the emigrant is not to be compared in any respect with that under the protection of the British flag. On no one point has there been more misrepresentation than with respect to the land regulations. Yet those of the United States are not to be compared with the Canadian laws in regard to liberality. Look at the following comparison:—

CANADA.

The head of a family or any male person not less than 18 years of age is entitled to a homestead entry.

Such entry may be for any quantity not exceeding 160 acres in any lands open therefor, the even-numbered sections on about eighty millions of the most fertile lands being free for selection.

Until the 1st January, 1885, the settler will have the right of pre-emption of an adjoining tract of the same extent as his homestead, which he can purchase at the end of three years at Government prices.

He obtains a patent at the end of three years' residence and cultivation.

He may have a second homestead entry.

He may commute by purchase after one year's residence.

THE UNITED STATES.

Any male person not less than 21 years is entitled to a homestead entry.

Such entry may be for any quantity not exceeding eighty acres in the first or $2.50 class, or one hundred and sixty acres in the second or $1.25 class of lands open therefor.

The homestead settler has not the right of pre-emption.

He obtains a patent at the end of five years' residence and cultivation.

He cannot have a second homestead entry.

He may commute by purchase after one year's residence, but it is recommended that this privilege be modified and restricted.

Thus it will be seen that in Canada your son can make his homestead entry *three years before* he could in the States, and have his deed *five years sooner*. This is practically a saving of five years in a man's lifetime. In Canada a second homestead is granted—in the States none. In Canada a pre-emption is attached to the homestead, but not so in the United States; and so on a comparison of the land laws of the two countries will show the Government of Canada to be much more liberal and fair to the settler.

Then again, to take up United States Government land—of which there is comparatively little left worth taking—the following oath is required to be taken by a British subject, which must necessarily be somewhat repugnant to his feelings:—

District Court,
..... Judicial District, } State of.....
County of.....

I.....do swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, and that I do absolutely and entirely Renounce and Abjure forever all Allegiance and Fidelity to every Foreign Power, Prince, Potenate, State or Sovereignity whatever, and particularly to *Queen Victoria, of Great Britain and Ireland*, whose subject I was. And further, that I never have borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the degrees of Nobility of the country whereof I have been a subject, and that I have resided within the United States for five years last past, and in this State for one year last past.

Subscribed and sworn to in open Court
this.....day of.....18.. } .....

.....*Clerk.*

Another important consideration is: The laws of Manitoba and the North-West Territories provide ample protection for the settler and his family against their new home being seized for debt at the instance of a vindictive creditor—that is, if the head of the family takes the precaution of securing it, by effecting the necessary special registration.

Then take the productiveness of the soil. We have shown that no land produces so much wheat to the acre as that in the Canadian North-West, and the average yield and quality is far in excess of any of the best wheat-growing Western States, and throw their boasted results of farming altogether into the shade.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

EMIGRATION ARRANGEMENTS.—WHO SHOULD EMIGRATE TO THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.—THE BEST TIME.—ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS TO EMIGRANTS.

The emigrant and those who seek pleasure and business combined or renewed health by a visit to Canada and its great North-West, will find that by any of the Canadian lines of steamers a very perfect system surrounds their every action, which without friction or inconvenience guards them from numberless unseen dangers and secures for them many a comfort. In other words passenger traffic by sea or land is regulated by attention, whereby the voyage and inland journey are made as safe and as agreeable as other circumstances may render possible. On the Canadian lines the luxuries of the saloon equal any of the American lines, and for those who cannot afford such the intermediate or steerage accommodation and supplies of food are superior, everything being scrupulously clean. The care and comfort of emigrants are also jealously guarded upon all the first-class steamers which are engaged in their conveyance from Great Britain and Ireland to Canada. But this official care of the emigrant does not cease at the end of the voyage; on the other hand, it is then greatly increased. On landing at Quebec a large and commodious immigrant shed affords excellent accommodation while waiting for the train, and where the immigrant is brought in contact with the Government agents. Upon these gentlemen important and often very delicate duties devolve, for they exercise a sort parental care over any immigrants who are in difficulty or who need friendly counsel, and to guard them against imposition. On arriving at their journey's end in the North-West they will find "homes" built by the Government at the principal points along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at which their families can reside until the bread winner finds a suitable location, and to assist him in this he will obtain all the necessary information from the local land agent or intelligence officer. In the case of immigrants of a better class the same help is at their command, and the agents will guide him to the district most likely to suit his plan of operation. Every prudent man will avail himself of this important help. The various ways in which the Canadian Government aid and assist immigrants of all grades and classes is not given from any feelings of benevolence, but simply because it is found to be a profitable outlay, by reason of the increased success which results, and its rests upon the recognition of this great truth—that as the general prosperity of the country is dependent upon the successful enterprise of a large number of individuals, so does it become a matter of national importance that each and every helper should be made a successful worker.

### WHO SHOULD EMIGRATE AND WHO SHOULD NOT.

"The tillers of the soil" are the class who are most needed in the North-West, and who are most certain in achieving success by steady industry; in fact any man,

whatever his station in life may be, who is able and willing to work, and has any adaptability for agricultural pursuits, can in the course of a few years, build up for himself and family a prosperous future and independence, as many others are daily doing and have done here. Gentlemen with small capital, and unaccustomed to rough it, but find it necessary to augment their income by their own industry, will find farming in the North-West commends itself as the most agreeable and satisfactory means for doing it. At first the fear arises that too much of the profits will be lost, if all the work is done by hired labour, which is certainly expensive, but this difficulty has received a practical solution, for almost all the farm implements are constructed so that they may be driven from a raised seat. It has thus become almost as easy to work any of them as it is to drive a spring waggon, or a carriage on a turnpike road at home. The same team that has been driven in a Sulky Gang Plough in the morning may be hitched into a light spring waggon in the afternoon to pay a friendly call upon some neighbour. The horses being unlike the slow paced and heavy farm teams used in the old country, but are light and active, and as a rule they are well bred. The result is, that to take part in the work of the farm, ceases to be objectionable, even to those who have been accustomed to have this work done by servants. Professional men and clerks should not emigrate to the North-West unless with means to take up land and commence the life of a farmer. Carpenters, blacksmiths, etc., with a little capital to start with, can, when not working on their land, secure employment in the nearest settlements and do well. There is also a constant demand for female servants at good wages (who are certain soon to become their own mistress). The tenant farmer, with some capital, say from two hundred to five hundred pounds, who seeks to improve his condition by his experience, and desires larger and quicker returns for labour bestowed and capital invested, has superior and unequalled advantages. Idle, impecunious gentlemen unable to work, are not in any way suitable. Persons beyond the active years of life, and without that adaptability to circumstances belonging to them, will also run considerable risk in emigrating, unless possessed of means. Success can be promised to energetic farmers, however modest their beginning.

### SUGGESTIONS TO EMIGRANTS.

Good health is the first requisite of a person who proposes to emigrate to a new country with a view to improving his condition in life. Although the climate of the Canadian North-West is so favourable as to insure exemption from many diseases which prevail in other countries, and to promise relief in certain ailments, the chances are that immigration will prove a mistake in the case of invalids who are compelled to work for a living.

The emigrant with limited means should endeavour to arrive in the country as early in spring as possible. April, or early in May, so as to have time to hunt up and locate his land; as a rule, the autumn is the worst time he could come. If he settles on his land even by the middle of May, he can at once break up a few acres, and sow wheat, oats, barley, etc., realizing a fair crop; also potatoes, turnips, and Indian corn for family use. A great advantage to the new settler in having a good yoke of oxen is, that they will work better in the breaking plough, and grow fat on the green grass that they eat at night; whereas the horses, accustomed to a liberal supply of oats, will not do so well at first on grass alone. A tent may be used to live in at first to gain time in putting in crop.

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## CONCLUSION.

The object of the preceding pages has been to outline the capacities of the Canadian North-West for supporting a large and prosperous population, and, from facts, to refute the slanders and falsehoods circulated by interested parties and influenced newspapers in the United Kingdom, regarding its great resources and

superior and unequalled advantages for the emigrant. The degree of rapid development which it has already reached is mainly attributed to its exceedingly fruitful soil and healthful climate. But the industries of the region are as yet comparatively undeveloped, and their capabilities of expansion almost unknown, in its hidden wealth of coal, petroleum, iron, copper, gold and and silver. A new age has now happily dawned. The era of railroads has opened for them, and the serious impediment to their progress is now removed by the completion of the great Canadian Pacific Railway from ocean to ocean through Canadian territory. Within the brief time since this wonderful enterprise began the general development of the country has been everywhere apparent, and what has already been accomplished is the wonder and admiration of all who have watched its progress. In view of all this, is it too much to assert that the time has come when not only population on a larger scale, but the capital necessary to the development of industries and manufactures will flow into this great North-West! Production for exportation has just begun—of wheat, the best quality known to commerce. All that is now wanting is more brain, muscle and capital for the Canadian North-West to weave from the warp and woof of its destinies a great and wonderful future, and to render it ere long, the cherished home land of contented and happy millions. The following instructive passage, which is here quoted from a published letter of a leading American statesman, the Hon. Horatio Seymour, late Governor of the State of New York, should have great interest to the British agricultural emigrant in considering his future prospects by settling in this North-West of Canada. He says: "Should England decide upon a national system of trade, she will be able by the imposition of ten or twenty cents a bushel upon American wheat, to bankrupt the farmers of our North-Western States. She can, by a like discrimination as to beef, pork, butter, cheese, and other farm produce, cripple, if not ruin our farmers all over the country, because it is too apparent to need argument that, with our vast railroad system and the agricultural lands developed by it, our own people cannot consnme what our farmers produce. In short," continues Mr. Seymour, "between our North-Western international boundary line of 45 degrees and 54 degrees 40 minutes there is a country owned by Canada, with greater grain and stock-producing capacity than all the lands in the Baltic, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean combined." This is an important admission from our American cousins which requires no comment. Without any desire to trench upon politics, it may be prophesied and hoped that the day is not far distant when England may see the true policy of deciding on a national system of trade.

The following facts and figures, which are rather startling, are taken from the Board of Trade returns, and are full of ominous import, and worthy of particular attention and thought as affecting the future of Canada and her great North-West:— In 1862 the population of the United Kingdom was 29,250,000; the total food imports, £50,000,000. In 1872, population 32,000,000; the total food imports, £74,250,000. In 1882, population 25,000,000; food imports, £108,000,000—*i.e.*, in twenty years the population had increased 5,750,000, and the food imports by £59,000,000; in other words, in 1862 there was paid for each man, woman and child £1 14s. 5d. for foreign food, and in 1882 £3 1s. 7d.

The particulars of the imports for 1883 are as follows .. For meat alive and dead, about £22,000,000; for butter and cheese, £16,500,000; for potatoes and breadstuffs, including grain of all kinds, £63,000,000; eggs, £3,000,0 00.

## REASONS FOR THE EMIGRANT SELECTING THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST OVER OTHER COLONIES.

In addition to the superiority of soil and climate (admitting the long and severe cold of winter) there are other reasons which should be considered by the emigrant for selecting the Canadian North-West as a new home. The proximity of England and the short and inexpensive trip. £9 or so will take him from almost any part of the Kingdom right up into the centre of the North-West. Then as to the other

Colonies, Africa, it may be said has lost much in public favor as a field for settlement owing to the frequent and terrible trouble with the natives and the Boers, to say nothing of the low estimation in which the British flag is held there just now. Against New Zealand there is little to be said, however there is something, the land is much dearer and is not nearly so good, and then it has not Great Britain as a market. No doubt there is much to be said in favour of Australia, but she too has her disadvantages. For instance drought that often leaves the farmer without either crops or flocks, and some of the deadliest snakes in the world are common in Australia. The Canadian North-West is free from venomous reptiles, and seldom suffers from drought. There are snakes, but they are harmless. Then all the three Colonies suffer in common from one tremendous drawback, the length and expense of the journey. The cost of bringing a family to any of them would almost enable a man to make a good start in the North-West of Canada. The emigrant who goes to any of these Colonies is practically lost to his friends at home, whereas here he is within ten or twelve days' communication. It may be added that there are now in the North-West many persons who have emigrated from Africa, New Zealand and Australia, and who are well pleased with the change The question then is, why live in misery at home when one can be happy and contented abroad, living under the same flag and having the same civil and religious liberty ? or why invest capital there for three or four per cent. interest, when there are such numerous opportunities here for its safe and profitable investment or employment, returning from eight to 100 per cent. or more ? There is scarcely a vocation of any kind where the same capital and good management which ensures success in older communities will not yield far greater returns in the North-West, as shown in preceding pages.

To paint this country as an El Dorado for emigrants, is to ensure a plentiful supply of disappointed if not disgusted settlers. In this pamphlet we have endeavored to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in humble effort to make the North-West better known and more fully understood abroad. It has nothing to fear but misrepresentation, friendly or unfriendly. As already remarked, its climate is severe in summer, and exceptionally healthy all the year around. Our soil is undoubtedly unsurpassed in the world, and we have abundance of free lad to bestow on those who want it. Such are the facts we have endeavoured to lay before the intending Old World emigrants. To them we say in all honesty and truthfulness they could not do better than emigrate to the Canadian North-West, if they are willing to submit for a time to the privations incident to life in a new country, where ultimate success will be the certain accompaniment of energy, industry and perseverance.

# DOMINION LANDS REGULATIONS.

The following Regulations are extracts with respect to the disposal of Dominion Lands in Manitoba and North-West are now in force :—

1. The surveyed lands in Manitoba and the North-West Territories shall, for the purposes of these Regulations, be classified as follows :—

Class A.—Lands within twenty-four miles of the main line or any branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, on either side thereof.

Class B.—Lands within twelve miles, on either side, of any projected line of railway (other than the Canadian Pacific Railway), approved by Order-in-Council published in the *Canada Gazette*.

Class C.—Lands south of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway not included in Class A. or B.

Class D.—Lands other than those in classes A. B. C.

HOMESTEADS OR FREE GRANT LANDS.

2. The even-numbered sections in all the foregoing classes are to be held exclusively for homesteads and pre-emptions.

(*a.*) Except in class D, where they may be affected by colonization agreements.

(*b.*) Except where it may be necessary out of them to provide wood lots for settlers.

(*c.*) Except in cases where the Minister of the Interior, under provisions of the Dominion Lands Acts, may deem it expedient to withdraw certain lands, and sell them at public auction or otherwise deal with them as the Governor-in-Council may direct.

3. The odd-numbered sections in class A are reserved for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

PRE-EMPTIONS.

7. The prices for pre-emption lots shall be as follows :—

For lands in classes A, B and C, $2.50 per acre.

For lands in class D, $2.00 per acre.

Payments shall be made in one sum at the end of three years from the date of entry, or at such earlier date as the settler may, under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Acts, obtain a patent for the homestead to which such pre-emption lot belongs.

TIMBER FOR SETTLERS.

14. The Minister of the Interior may direct the reservation of any odd or even-numbered section having timber upon it, to provide wood for homestead settlers on sections without it ; and each such settler may, where the opportunity for so doing exists, purchase a wood lot, not exceeding twenty acres, at the price of $5 per acre in cash.

(*a.*) Cordwood, 25 cents per cord.

do of dry and fallen timber, 10 cents per cord.

Fence posts, 8ft. 6in. long, and not exceeding 5in. at the small end, 1 cent each.

Fence rails of poplar, 12ft. long, and not exceeding 5in. at the butt end, $2 per thousand.

Rails of any other wood, 12ft. long, and not exceeding 12in. at the butt end, 1 cent each.

Building logs of poplar, when not exceeding 12in. at the butt end, ½ cent per lineal foot.
Building logs of pine, spruce, tamarac, and other wood enumerated, when not exceeding 12in. at the butt end, 1 cent per lineal foot.
Building logs of oak, elm, ash, and maple, when not exceeding 12in. at the butt end, 1½ cent per lineal foot.
Shingles, 40 cents per thousand.
Telegraph poles, 22ft. long, 5 cents each.
do do each lineal foot over 22ft., 1 cent per foot.
Railway ties, 8ft. long, 3 cents each.
Square timber and saw logs of poplar, $2 per M. ft. b.m.
do do pine, cedar, spruce, tamarac and other woods enumerated, $2.50 per M. ft. b.m.
do do oak, elm, ash and maple, $3 per M. ft. b.m.

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Returns of broad measure to be made by Scribner's log rule.
All other products of the forest not enumerated, 10 per cent. *ad valorem.*
An office fee of 50 cents to be charged for each permit.

Issuers of permits will be instructed by the Minister as to the limit of quantity that will be granted; also what proportion of dues shall be deposited on issue of permit, as guarantee on the part of those obtaining the same.

Besides the dues above specified, grantees of permits may be called upon to pay such addition thereto as the Minister may judge necessary to meet their proportion of and expense that may be incurred by the Department in survey or other demarcation, on the ground of the limits within which such permits are to be operative.

Permits shall set forth that those obtaining these must conform to the conditions terms and requirements specified in the same, and carefully restrict their cutting to the limits described therein; and that any breach thereof will subject the offender to all the pains and penalties in that behalf as set forth in the Dominion Lands Act.

15. The Minister of the Interior may grant, under the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act, licenses to cut timber on lands within surveyed townships. The lands covered by such licenses are hereby withdrawn from homestead and pre-emption entry and for sale.

### PASTURAGE LANDS.

**16.** Under the authority of the Act 44 Victoria, Chap. 16, leases of tracts for grazing purposes may be granted on the following conditions:—

(*a.*) Such leases are to be for a period of not exceeding twenty-one years, and no single lease shall cover a greater area than 100,000 acres.

(*b.*) In surveyed territory, the land embraced by the lease shall be described in townships and sections. In unsurveyed territory, the party to whom a lease may be promised shall, before the issue of the lease, cause a survey of the tract to be made, at his own expense, by a Dominion Land Surveyor, under instructions from the Surveyor-General; and the plan and field notes of such survey shall be deposited on record in the Department of the Interior.

(*c.*) The lessee shall pay an annual rental at the rate of $20 for every 1,000 acres embraced by his lease, and shall, within three years from the granting of the lease, place on the tract one head of cattle for every ten acres of land embraced by the lease, and shall during its term maintain cattle thereon in at least that proportion.

(*d.*) After placing the prescribed number of cattle upon the tract leased, the lessee may purchase land within his household for a home farm and *corral.*

(*e.*) Failure to fulfil any of the conditions of his lease shall subject the lessee to forfeiture thereof.

17. When two or more parties apply for a grazing lease of the same land tenders shall be invited, and the lease shall be granted to the party offering the highest premium therefor in addition to the rental. The said premium to be paid before the issue of the lease.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

18. Payments for land may be in cash, scrip or Police and Military Bounty Warrants.

19. These regulations shall not apply to lands valuable for town plots, or to coal or other mineral lands, or to stone or marble quarries, or to lands having water power thereon; or to sections 11 and 29 in each Township, which are School lands, or to sections 8 and 26, which belong to the Hudson's Bay Company.

MILE BELT RESERVE OPEN FOR HOMESTEAD.

On the 29th of November, 1883, an Order-in-Council was passed in reference to what is known as the "Mile Belt Reserve," being the even-numbered sections next to and along both sides of the Canadian Pacific Railway and its branches, which are withdrawn from homestead and pre-emption entries on the 11th day of March, 1882.

The following Memorandum of the Minister of the Interior, sanctioned by Order-in-Council, contains the Rules and Regulations with reference to settlement in the Mile Belt:—

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Ottawa, 28th November, 1883.

*Memorandum.*

The undersigned has the honor to report to Council that inasmuch as the Stations on the Canadian Pacific Railway between the City of Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains have been located, and in view of the importance of the early settlement and cultivation of what is known as the "Mile Belt Reserve," being the even-numbered sections next to and along both sides of the Canadian Pacific Railway and its branches which were withdrawn from homestead and pre-emption entries on the 11th day of March, 1882, he is of opinion that the same should be re-opened as far west as the 4th Principal Meridian.

The undersigned recommends, therefore, that he be authorized to open for homestead and pre-emption entries, from and after the 1st day of January, 1884, so much of the said "Mile Belt Reserve," being east of the 4th Principal Meridian, and remaining vested in the Crown, as has not been set apart for town sites and reserves made in connection with town sites, railway stations, Mounted Police Posts, mining and other special purposes, and as may not, as in the opinion of the Minister of the Interior, be required for any of the purposes above mentioned or otherwise reserved by him, on the following conditions:

1. Every section shall be held to be subdivided into two homesteads and two pre-emptions, and any homesteader shall be entitled to obtain homestead entry or homestead and pre-emption entries, by making application according to the "Dominion Lands Act, 1883," providing that in every case in which homestead and pre-emption entries are obtained, the same shall be for either the east or the west half of the section.

2. The homestead entry shall be subject to the following conditions in respect to cultivation and cropping, that is to say:

(*a*) That the homesteader shall, within the first year after the date of his homestead entry, break and prepare for crop 10 acres of his homestead quarter section.

(*b*) And shall, within the succeeding year, crop the said 10 acres, and break and prepare for crop 15 acres additional,—making 25 acres.

(*c*) And, within the third year after the date of his homestead entry, he shall crop the said 25 acres, and break and prepare for crop 15 acres additional, so that within three years of the date of homestead entry he shall have not less than 25 acres cropped, and 15 acres additional broken and prepared for crop.

3. That so soon as any homesteader shall have satisfied the Minister of the Interior that he has fulfilled the foregoing conditions in respect to cultivation and cropping and has in all other respects complied with the provisions of the "Dominion Lands Act, 1883," in respect of homesteads, and homesteads and pre-emptions, he shall be entitled to receive a patent for his homestead, or for his homestead and pre-emption, as the case may be.

4. That a patent shall not issue to any homesteader before he shall have satisfied the Minister of the Interior that he has *bona fide* fulfilled the conditions in respect to cultivation and cropping prescribed by section 2 of this memorandum, and has in all other respects complied with the provisions of the "Dominion Lands Act, 1883," in respect of homesteads and homesteads and pre-emptions.

5. If any homesteader fail to cultivate and crop his homestead in the manner prescribed by section 2 of this memorandum, or fail to comply with the provisions of the "Dominion Lands Act, 1883," in respect to homesteads and homesteads and pre-emptions, his right to the land shall be forfeited, and the entry or entries shall be cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

D. L. MACPHERSON, Minister of the Interior.

COAL LANDS.

The following districts have been set apart and the lands therein withdrawn from ordinary sale and from settlement, and declared to be Coal Districts, the same to be known as those of the *Souris River*, the *Bow River*, the *Belly River* and the *askatchewan River*, the said districts for the present to be composed as follows:—

I.—SOURIS RIVER COAL DISTRICT.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Townships | 1 and south halves of 2. | Ranges | 5 and 6, | West of | 2nd Meridian. |
| " | 1, 2, 3, | " | 7, 8, | " | " |
| " | 1, 2, 3, | " | 9, 10, | " | " |
| " | 1, 2, 3, 4, | " | 11, | " | " |
| " | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, | " | 12, 13, | " | " |
| " | 2, 3, 4, 5, | " | 14, | " | " |
| " | 3, 4, 5, | " | 15, | " | " |
| " | 4, 5, | " | 16, | " | " |
| " | 5, | " | 17, | " | " |

II.—BOW RIVER COAL DISTRICT.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Townships | 19, 20, 21, | Ranges | 18, 19, | West of | 4th Meridian. |
| " | 20, 21, 22, | " | 20, 21, | " | " |

III.—BELLY RIVER COAL DISTRICT.

Townships 11, 12, 13, Ranges 21, 22, 23, West of 4th Meridian.

IV.—SASKATCHEWAN RIVER COAL DISTRICT.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Townships | 11, 12, 13, | Ranges | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, | West of | 4th Meridian. |
| " | 14, 15, 16, | " | 3, 3, 4, 5, | " | " |

2nd. The land within the said coal districts will be surveyed as soon as possible, and thereafter will be periodically offered for sale, by tender or public auction, at an upset price; the same, together with the terms and conditions of the sale, to be fixed from time to time by the Minister of the Interior.

3rd. With respect to leases which have already been granted, each lessee who has fulfilled the conditions thereof may, within two years from the date of the Order-in-Council authorizing his lease, convert the leasehold into freehold, by paying in cash the upset price placed by the Minister of the Interior on the lands in the coal district wherein the said leasehold is situated; but the lease shall be null and void in all cases where the conditions have not been fulfilled by the lessee, especially the conditions contained in clause 5 of the said regulations, which is as follows: "That failure to commence active operations within one year and to work the mine within two years of the commencement of the term of the lease, or to pay the ground rent or royalty, shall subject the lessee to forfeiture of the lease, and resumption of the land by the Crown.

4th. In cases where the Minister of the Interior satisfies himself that companies, or persons, have expended considerable sums of money in exploring for coal within the limit of any district for which they may have applied under the regulations of the 17th December, 1881, the said lands may be sold to such companies or persons at the upset price fixed for lands in the coal district in which such tract may be situated.

5th. The boundaries beneath the surface of coal mining locations shall be the vertical planes or lines in which their surface boundaries lie.

6th. The rights of lessees, and of persons in favor of whom Orders-in-Council authorizing leases have been passed, shall not be affected by these regulations, except in so far as they may be consistent therewith.

# The North-Western Coal and Navigation Co.

(LIMITED.)

WILLIAM LETHBRIDGE, President,
*London, England.*

E. T. GALT,
*Manager.*

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***C. A. MAGRATH,***

LAND DEPARTMENT,
*North-West Coal and Navigation Company,*
LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA,
*North-West Territories.*

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——:o:——

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
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| " " | 10 × 18 feet, four rooms... | 225 00 |
| " " | 32 × 18 feet, six rooms.... | 335 00 |

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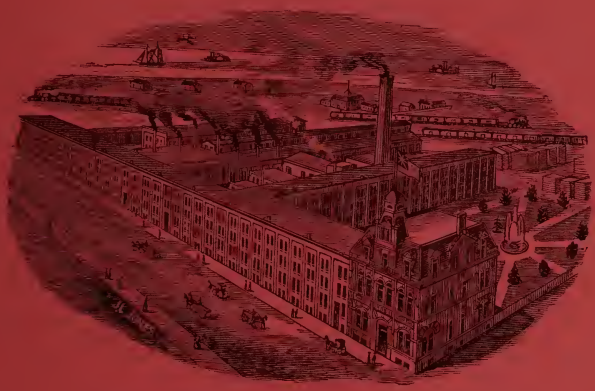

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W. B. SCARTH, *Managing Director.*

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